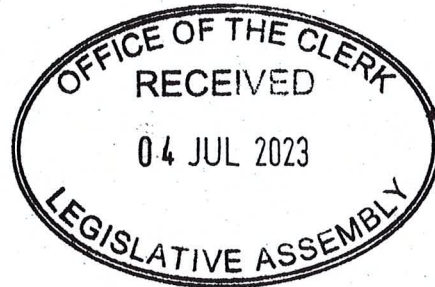


The Hon David Harris MP

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing,
Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, Minister for the Central Coast



Ms Helen Minnican
Clark of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Ref: LA PETITION

Re: LA PETITION – Mandatory spiking and sexual violence prevention training for security and bar staff

Dear Ms Minnican,

I write in response to the petition lodged in the Legislative Assembly on 30 May 2023 by the Member for Newcastle, the Hon Tim Crakanthorp MP, regarding mandatory spiking and sexual violence prevention training for security and bar staff.

Drink spiking is a criminal offence and is the responsibility of NSW Police Force

As drink spiking is criminal offence under the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW), NSW Police Force is the primary investigative authority. In NSW, penalties include fines and up to two years imprisonment.

The NSW Police Force has Standard Operating Procedures designed to assist Police to appropriately respond to reports of drink/food spiking. Where further aggravated offences are disclosed (i.e., sexual assault or robbery), Police will undertake additional investigative actions accordingly.

The NSW Police Force has also developed Factsheets to educate the community and outline the actions victims can take when they suspect their drinks have been spiked.

Liquor and Gaming NSW (L&GNSW) is updating the drink spiking content in Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training handbooks

The role of L&GNSW in relation to drink spiking is primarily educative, with a focus on members of the public and licensed premises staff. L&GNSW encourages anyone with a complaint of drink spiking to report the matter to licensed premises staff and to NSW Police Force.

Under the Liquor Regulation, all staff at licensed venues, including security personnel, are required to undertake RSA training. This training requirement for security personnel is in addition to the security training requirements specified under the *Security Industry Act 1997*.

Regarding drink spiking, the RSA training course currently includes information about what to look out for, how to prevent it, and who to contact. RSA content also includes contact information for Police, Taxi, and counselling services. The Licensee training handbook includes additional information on what steps should be taken if drink spiking is witnessed at a venue.

L&GNSW is currently refreshing the RSA and Licensee training content. The refresh will be focused on:

- clarifying that drink spiking is a crime under NSW legislation and punishable by two years' imprisonment

- adding content specifically for security personnel at licensed premises, noting all security personnel who work at licensed premises are required to undertake RSA training
- clarifying that incidents of drink spiking should be reported to NSW Police
- providing further information on what steps bar staff and security personnel should take after an allegation is made, or a drink spiking incident is witnessed.

L&GNSW is exploring options to further promote the 'Think safe to drink safe' campaign

L&GNSW, with support from NSW Police Force, developed the 'Think safe to drink safe' campaign to address drink spiking in licensed venues. The campaign was launched through the liquor accord network to raise awareness ahead of the 2022-23 Spring/Summer season.

To date, campaign content has been promoted to the liquor accord network and in the L&GNSW external newsletter. The content in the campaign is broadly consistent with other Australian jurisdictions.

L&GNSW is currently exploring options to further promote this campaign to licensees and venues and will also be working with the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner to determine the feasibility of linking with existing initiatives promoting a safe night life.

L&GNSW to add drink spiking guidance to liquor guideline documents

L&GNSW will include information on drink spiking in the Intoxication Guidelines. These guidelines must be followed by Licensees to manage intoxication on licensed premises. The updated content will cover the practical ways in which patron safety can be improved in different circumstances, such as engaging with local police, or having venue staff arrange transport.

L&GNSW to review the Ask for Angela campaign

Ask for Angela is a L&GNSW ongoing patron safety campaign aimed at addressing sexual violence, which commenced in 2017. The campaign encourages patrons to approach bar staff and 'ask for Angela' if they need help to leave an unsafe situation. Staff can intervene by calling police, organising safe transport home with a taxi or other ride share service, or by referring the patron to support services.

In previous years, L&GNSW has engaged several liquor accords, licensed premises, NSW Police Force, Councils and the Australian Hotels Association to support the initiative.

L&GNSW is in discussions with the liquor accord network to review the current Ask for Angela campaign, with a view to ensuring it remains an effective safety measure.

The NSW Government is committed to delivering a safe, vibrant 24-hour economy across NSW. This means addressing issues such as drink spiking in a proactive way through improved education, training and awareness.

Sincerely,



04/07/2023

David Harris MP

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing,
Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, Minister for the Central Coast