Crack Down on False ID’S in the Build up to this Festive Season

Underage nightclub goers have been put on notice with the NT Government cracking down on minors using fake IDs this festive season, Licensing Minister Kon Vatskalis said today.

Mr Vatskalis said with school holidays coming up and exams nearing their end, there will be an increased focus by licensees, security and inspectors on underage people trying to enter liquor licensed premises.

He said an NT Government illumination device aimed at spotting fake IDs and sent to security officers throughout the Territory earlier this year had already proven a success with 30 fake IDs confiscated in the last month.

“With exams nearing their end, and the festive period almost upon us, it is timely for a warning to our youngsters about the dangers of using fake identification to access alcohol,” Mr Vatskalis said.

Mr Vatskalis said the Department of Justice had earlier this year distributed a new illumination device and information pack to all crowd controllers and security guards in the Northern Territory.

“The device picks up any alterations to the surface of identification cards such as the current Northern Territory Drivers Licence to assist with detecting minors using false identification,” he said.

“Common alterations to identification cards include the changing of the year of birth on both the front and back of the ID to represent an age of 18 or older.

“The information pack also provides those within the industry with up to date and industry relevant information focusing on false identification and intoxication. This new program is effective with inspectors collecting over 30 false identifications in the past month.

“With the cooperation of Northern Territory pubs, clubs and bottle shops we will confiscate false identification cards produced by underage persons at licensed premises across the Northern Territory.”

Mr Vatskalis said an education program was also underway in Territory schools with Licensing Inspectors visiting schools to educate underage Territorians about the risks associated with using false identification to purchase alcohol and tobacco products.

The education program will work with schools and parents on issues associated with the misuse of alcohol and tobacco products.

“School Liaison Inspectors are working directly with the parents of underage Territorians found using false or altered identification to educate their children about the seriousness of their actions,” he said.
Mr Vatskalis urged staff of any licensed premises that are shown a false identification card by an underage person to seize the card and hand it over to the Licensing Division of the Department of Justice.

“Collecting false identification cards will not only keep them off the street, the cards will assist Licensing Inspectors to keep up to date with the latest alterations and to report weaknesses in card design,” he said.

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