28 April 2010

Laws to Crack Down on Alcohol Fuelled Violence Passed

The Territory Parliament today passed new laws that could see troublemakers banned for up to a year from pub precincts.

Attorney-General, Delia Lawrie, said the new laws under the *Liquor Legislation Amendment Act* provide police and courts with greater powers to crack down on alcohol fuelled violence.

“These laws are aimed at the small number of people who make trouble and ruin it for everyone during a night on the town,” Ms Lawrie said.

“It’s unacceptable that 59 per cent of all assaults in the Territory are alcohol related. These new powers will give police and the courts more tools to stamp out alcohol-fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour before it escalates.

“Under the new laws people causing trouble can be slapped with an immediate 48 hour ban from pub precincts and a $130 on-the-spot fine for refusing to leave.

“Police officers can enter licensed premises on their own accord and require drunk, violent or disorderly people be removed.

“People who refuse to leave a venue when requested or attempt to re enter within 12 hours will face a $130 on-the-spot fine.

“Police can now ban a drunk or violent person from designated areas for 48 hours and take repeat offenders to court to seek bans of up to 12 months.”

Ms Lawrie said the new laws included new provisions to stamp out the use of fake identification to gain entry into pubs and nightclubs.

“Any suspected ‘fake’ identifications being used to enter a licensed venue now can be seized by police, security staff, licensees and inspectors,” she said.

“The new laws make it an offence for anyone helping a person under 18 obtain false identification for the purpose of entering a licensed premise.

“It is also an offence to lend a minor genuine identification for the purpose of entering a licensed venue.”

The new laws allow for the Director of Licensing to approve licensees working together under a liquor accord without breaching anti-competitive provisions of the Federal Trade Practises Act.

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