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# Glassing and bans on glassware under Queensland's Liquor Act 1992

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## BACKGROUND

'Glassing' has become a popularly used term, particularly in the media, to refer to attacking someone with a glass or a glass bottle, resulting in injuries. These incidents generally occur at nightclubs or hotels. The issue came to national prominence in 2009 when it was reported that a former National Rugby League (NRL) player was found guilty of the reckless wounding (in particular, glassing) of his girlfriend and was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment.<sup>1</sup> (This conviction was subsequently quashed on appeal when Judge Michael Finnane accepted the couple's story that the injured female had been the aggressor in the incident and the defendant/appellant had acted in self-defence.<sup>2</sup>) In another, separate incident it was reported that an Australian Football League (AFL) player pleaded guilty to criminal negligence over a glassing attack in February 2009 and was sentenced to an intensive correctional order, probation, 100 hours community service and an \$8,000 compensation order.<sup>3</sup>

On 20 July 2009, the Queensland Premier and Minister for the Arts, the Hon AM Bligh MP, [announced](#) the establishment of a Queensland-wide Parliamentary Inquiry into alcohol-related violence and its ramifications as part of an effort to improve public safety throughout the state.<sup>4</sup> The Premier said that, by the end of 2009, the *"Government will crack down on the use of glass in high risk, problem venues across the state"*.<sup>5</sup>

On 4 August 2009, the Queensland Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading, the Hon P Lawlor MP, made a [statement](#) to Parliament about alcohol related violence, particularly on the issue of glassing.<sup>6</sup> The Minister said that, in the previous 12 months, there had been 47 recorded glassing incidents, with 36 of those being on the Gold Coast. The Minister also stated that the Queensland Government is working with the Queensland Police Service and the liquor industry to identify high-risk venues and *"aims to replace glass with plastic or similar cups by the end of the year"*.<sup>7</sup> As will be discussed later in this e-Research Brief, New South Wales has recently implemented legislation prohibiting the use of glass and breakable plastic containers in certain specified venues during the restricted service period, that being generally after midnight.

On 5 October 2009, the Queensland Premier, the Hon AM Bligh MP and the Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading, the Hon P Lawlor MP jointly [announced](#) that:

- amendments to the [Liquor Act 1992 \(Qld\)](#) would be introduced to the House for urgent consideration in response to an earlier commitment (see also above) to ban the use of regular glass in high-risk venues by the end of 2009. The Queensland Government named 41 venues throughout Queensland which were to be issued with Show Cause Notices to establish whether they would need to swap the use of regular glass for tempered glass or plastic. (The legislative amendments were enacted in October 2009 and are in force; however the Show Cause Notices, originally due for completion by December 2009,<sup>8</sup> have since been extended until early February 2010 following Supreme Court action by some affected licensees.<sup>9</sup>);
- the Parliamentary Inquiry (referred to above) would be given a specific reference in relation to transitioning other pubs and clubs to tempered glass or plastic, in close consultation with industry.<sup>10</sup> (The Parliamentary Inquiry has since delivered an [Interim Report](#), tabled on 25 November 2009, but has until March 2010 to deliver its final report.<sup>11</sup>).

This e-Research Brief will focus upon the glassing issue and how governments are seeking to prevent it. Possible measures include legislation requiring the use of plastic containers instead of glass, education on better behaviour, or increasing the penalties for glassing attacks. Given the extent of the glassing problem and its connection to the wider issues of alcohol misuse, binge-drinking and alcohol related violence (some of which are discussed more fully in an earlier Queensland Parliamentary Library Publication, "Our Binge Drinking Culture" (RBR 2007/11)), this e-Research Brief will deal only with glassing and the measures being undertaken to combat the problem in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

## SOME FACTS AND STATISTICS

Glassing generally occurs at pubs and nightclubs and often takes place between patrons who may be intoxicated, get into a fight and grab the closest thing to them – usually a glass or bottle. A glassing attack can leave large scars and gashes, especially on the face and, in some instances, can cause blindness and/or brain/nerve damage.

The much wider issue of alcohol related violence, of which glassing is part, is currently the subject of a referral by the Queensland Legislative Assembly to the Parliamentary Law, Justice and Safety Committee (Inquiry into Alcohol Related Violence in Queensland).<sup>12</sup> When announcing the Inquiry, the Hon AM Bligh MP [stated](#) *"the culture of drinking is something we must seriously review - excessive consumption and violence should not be considered paramount to a good night out"*.<sup>13</sup> A July 2009 [Media Statement](#) by the Queensland Premier noted that, since July 2008, 45 reported glassing attacks have taken place in licensed premises in Queensland.<sup>14</sup>

While not all of the statistics stated below are attributable to glassing attacks, the Commonwealth Government's Department of Health and Ageing's ['Drinking Nightmare'](#) website reports that:<sup>15</sup>

- in an average week, 4 Australians under 25 die as a result of alcohol related injuries and 70 will be hospitalised due to alcohol caused assault;
- around 50% of Australians aged 15 to 17 who become intoxicated will do something they regret.

The latest findings by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in its *2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: Detailed Findings* reveal the following about alcohol related harm for Australians aged 14 years or older in 2007:<sup>16</sup>

- in 2007, 1 in 5 were the victims of alcohol related incidents;
- over 29% were more likely to have been abused or put in fear by a person affected by alcohol than by someone affected by illicit drugs (14.6%), with 'verbal abuse' reported more often than being put in fear or physical abuse;
- the majority of victims of alcohol or illicit drug related incidents (58%) had not been drinking or using other drugs when the incident occurred but 37.7% had been drinking alcohol when it occurred;
- the most common locations of physical abuse were in the street (33.4%); in the home (34.1%) or in a pub or club (34.1%) and males were more likely to be involved in physical abuse in pubs or clubs (37.9%) than females (27.1%).

In June 2009, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) released an Information Paper, ['Alcohol Use and Harms in Australia \(2009\)'](#). After noting from other studies that young Australians are starting to drink at an earlier age and most drink in a way that puts their health and others at risk, the AMA discussed various alcohol related harms to health and adverse social impacts of alcohol. The AMA observed that underage drinkers were more likely than older drinkers to experience risky or antisocial behaviour.<sup>17</sup> It was also noted that an Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation survey in early 2008 revealed that, during the 2007-2008 holiday period, over 2.2m Australians experienced verbal and/or physical abuse from someone under the influence of alcohol and 45% of 14-17 year olds claimed they knew someone who was injured or harmed as a result of excessive drinking.<sup>18</sup>

At an international level, the 2006 World Health Organisation (WHO) [Youth Violence and Alcohol Fact Sheet](#) (WHO Fact Sheet) summarises, among other issues, the role of alcohol in youth violence (i.e. among 10 to 29 year olds), the extent of the problem and possible prevention measures.<sup>19</sup> It notes that harmful and hazardous uses of alcohol are risk factors for being victimised, as well as for perpetrating, youth violence (such as assaults in pubs and clubs).<sup>20</sup> The WHO observed that the impact of youth violence "reaches all sectors of society, placing huge strains on public services and damaging communities".<sup>21</sup>

The [WHO Fact Sheet](#) summarises a range of international studies and research examining the extent of alcohol related youth violence, factors increasing the risks for involvement in such violence and preventative measures being undertaken in a number of different countries, as well as in a broad range of settings. In keeping with this e-Research Brief's focus just on alcohol related violence occurring in and around pubs and clubs, most of the points from the WHO Fact Sheet set out below are restricted to WHO's observations made in that context:

- while there is a scarcity of data enabling cross-national comparisons of youth alcohol consumption, a range of surveys across the world have revealed varying levels and patterns of alcohol use between countries. Increasing consumption among young people seen in some countries has raised concerns about an international spread of a 'youth culture of excessive drinking';<sup>22</sup>
- although levels of youth violence vary widely between countries and it is difficult to compare measures of non-fatal violence across the world, studies in many countries have found links between youth violence and harmful alcohol use by perpetrators and victims. For example, a community sample of 18 to 30 year olds in the USA found that around 25% of men and 12% of women experience violence or aggression in or around a licensed bar during the previous year;<sup>23</sup>
- among the range of factors that have been found to increase a young person's risk of becoming victims and perpetrators of alcohol related violence are: individual factors (such as being male, particular personality traits (e.g. aggression) and behavioural disorders, low educational attainment); relationship factors (such as poor family cohesion); and community

and societal factors (such as poor social integration, cultures supportive of violence),<sup>24</sup>

- many alcohol related incidents of violence tend to occur in and around drinking venues (e.g. pubs and clubs), particularly in venues characterised by: low levels of comfort (e.g. few seats, crowded, hot and noisy; or the venue is poorly maintained); discounted alcohol beverages; aggressive door supervisors; many intoxicated patrons; and a permissive attitude to behaviours such as anti-social behaviour and underage drinking.<sup>25</sup> The WHO went on to observe:<sup>26</sup>

Qualitative studies have found that alcohol related violence in bars and clubs is often reactive, triggered by events such as a spilt drink or an advance by one person towards another's sexual partner. Young men explain their aggressive responses ... as necessary for defending their honour and retaining the respect of their peers; however fighting for fun is also a common reason given for initiating violence. Among young males participating in such violence, alcohol is believed to facilitate aggression by increasing confidence and willingness to take risks, making people more aroused and emotional, and reducing their ability to consider the consequences of their behaviour.

- in terms of the impact of youth violence on victims, it has been found that alcohol related violence often leads to more severe injury and, across the United Kingdom, for example, 8% of facial injuries sustained in assaults '*were inflicted with the paraphernalia of alcohol use (i.e. the use of glasses and bottles as weapons)*'. *Such injuries can cause permanent scarring and emotional and psychological trauma*'.<sup>27</sup> There are also flow-on consequences for health and related services with research from Norway, the UK and the USA indicating that treatment demands and criminal justice responses for alcohol related violence come at considerable economic costs.<sup>28</sup>
- among a number of prevention programs aimed at reducing youth violence (e.g. social development training; restrictions on availability of alcohol) there is potential for introducing measures that modify drinking venues to reduce alcohol related violence. For instance, management and staff practices could be improved through training; codes of good practice could be implemented and stricter enforcement of licensing laws may be beneficial, as well as judicial interventions that use fines for low level alcohol offences and orders which ban offenders engaging in violence from drinking venues. However, as the WHO notes, the effectiveness of such interventions have not been fully assessed.<sup>29</sup> Interestingly, the WHO considered, as an example of a multi-component program, Queensland Safety Action Projects in 3 Australian cities (Cairns, Townsville and Mackay) to target aggression in clubs and their surrounds. This was done through improved regulation (e.g. strict enforcement of licensing laws), mechanisms for engaging public support of such regulation (e.g. forums about nightlife issues), and facilitating self-regulation among pubs and clubs (e.g. codes of practice). It was found that the intervention led to reductions in verbal abuse and threats at venues. The changes observed to be most associated with reduced problems included improved comfort levels, increased public transport and fewer drunken men.<sup>30</sup>

## EXAMPLES OF GLASSING INCIDENTS AND MEDIA REPORTS

One only has to type the word "glassing" into a search engine on the Internet to receive a myriad of news reports on the issue. The following are examples of media reports of glassing attacks in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. For newspaper articles from other states and territories and the United Kingdom, see 'Further Reading', below.

### QUEENSLAND

- 'The people who routinely pick up the pieces' (*Courier Mail*, 21 July 2009) is an article illustrating a 'pretty quiet' Saturday night at the Royal Brisbane Hospital's (RBH's) Emergency Department, one of the largest in the country, and the people (including security guards, nurses, doctors and police officers) who are faced with the task of treating and looking after the injured victims of glassing attacks. It reported that on that particular Saturday night, the RBH had seen around 36 patients between midnight and 7 am the following morning but the cases had been relatively minor. A RBH worker told reporters that it had been "*a pretty quiet night by our standards. ... Certainly, about half (of injuries) have been related to alcohol ...*". The Registrar is reported to have said (regarding the attitude of victims), "*It's a combination of anger due to obviously being the victim of a crime, or being assaulted, along with the fact that they had alcohol on board and, to some extent, male aggression, testosterone and frustration*".
- 'Pubs switch to plastic' (*Sunday Mail*, 24 May 2009) reports that 9 Queensland pubs and clubs have traded glasses for plastic in a bid to halt glassing assaults. An 18 year old, who has lost



sight in one eye due to a glassing incident, speaks to the newspaper.

- 'Clubs urged to ban glass - Authorities hunt for solution to end devastating attacks' (*Courier Mail*, 23 May 2009) reports on glassing attacks on the Gold Coast, indicating that 34 glassing attacks have occurred in the 18 months up to late May 2009.
- 'Face surgeon calls for glass ban' (*ABC Online*, 30 July 2008) quotes a maxillofacial surgeon from the Gold Coast who has called for a switch to plastic in pubs and clubs. The surgeon, who treats 2 to 3 glassing victims a month, says *"if the glass gets in too deep then it can sever vital nerves, it can enter the salivary glands it can damage the eyelids.... If there's nerve involvement that can't be repaired - they permanently can't smile correctly, can't move their mouth, can't close their eye - that's life long devastation for them."*

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

- 'Glassing attacks on the rise' (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 June 2008) reports that a glassing attack happens somewhere in New South Wales every 9 hours and refers to figures from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research indicating that a glass or bottle was the weapon used in 994 assaults across the state during 2007.
- 'Victim of glassing attack urges pubs to switch to plastic' (news.com.au) (*Daily Telegraph*, 9 November 2007) reports on an interview with a 20 year old woman with facial injuries and blinded in one eye from a nightclub glassing. The article includes a photo of the woman before and after suffering her injuries.

#### VICTORIA

- 'Horror glassing: man left with 30 stitches after attack in Melbourne's CBD' (*Age*, 3 June 2009). In this incident, a glassing attack left the male victim with 30 stitches on the side of the face and over the top of the head. The news article includes a photo of the injuries.

#### RELEVANT OFFENCE PROVISIONS AND APPLICABLE PENALTIES

While the term 'glassing' has grown in popular parlance, it is not actually a type of criminal offence. Rather, such an act is likely to be covered by a range of existing offence provisions such as 'grievous bodily harm', 'assault occasioning bodily harm', or 'wounding'.

#### QUEENSLAND

Under s 323 of the [Queensland Criminal Code](#) a person who unlawfully wounds another person commits a misdemeanour. The maximum penalty is 7 years imprisonment. *"The expression 'wounding' is not defined in the Code, but it is accepted in Queensland that it bears its ordinary or common law meaning, which requires that the 'true' skin must be penetrated or broken": R v Jervis [1993] 1 Qd R 643, McPherson ACJ at 645.* Under s 320 of the [Queensland Criminal Code](#), the unlawful doing of grievous bodily harm carries a penalty of up to 14 years imprisonment. Grievous bodily harm would thus tend to encompass the more serious 'glassing' attacks.

The use of a bottle to injure another person has a long history: *R v McLoughlin* (1938) 8 C & P 635, as has the use of a drinking glass to injure the face of another person: [Kaporonovski v R \[1973\] HCA 35; \(1973\) 133 CLR 209](#) (a case of grievous bodily harm where a glass was forced against the victim's eye).

In [R v Toohey \[2001\] QCA 149](#), the Queensland Court of Appeal, by majority, refused an application for leave to appeal against a sentence of 2 years imprisonment for an offence of unlawful wounding, where a broken glass was used by the applicant as a weapon and caused injury to the complainant's left arm. The Court reviewed a number of comparable cases and noted that the sentencing range for such offences was between 1 and 3 years imprisonment. In particular Thomas JA noted that, in His Honour's experience, *"more serious sentences are imposed when further aggravating features exist, and lesser sentences are imposed when either less serious circumstances exist or further circumstances of mitigation are shown"*.<sup>31</sup> In relation to the present case, His Honour said that the circumstances of this case characterised the offence as a relatively serious one. The publican had endeavoured, by all proper means, to stop the applicant from his persistent attempts to enter the venue after reasonable efforts had been taken to get him to leave and, sometime prior to the attack on the publican, the applicant had broken off a shard of glass which he then used to attack the publican when he again tried to eject the applicant. Thus, leave to appeal was refused.

In [R v Berryman \[2005\] QCA 471](#), the Queensland Court of Appeal considered a sentence of 3 years imprisonment (suspended after 12 months), imposed on the applicant following a plea of guilty to grievous bodily harm, where the complainant was struck by a glass which broke on contact with the complainant's face, leaving significant facial scarring and other wounds. In dismissing the appeal on sentencing, the court



considered previous cases involving “glassing”, many of which involved convictions for unlawful wounding. Here, “because of the ‘serious disfigurement’ to the face, the injury was caught by the definition of grievous bodily harm”<sup>32</sup> and not the less serious crime of unlawful wounding. As such, the 3 year sentence was held to be within the range of sentences imposed in previous cases where a glassing attack constituted grievous bodily harm.

## **NEW SOUTH WALES**

Similarly to Queensland, ‘glassing’ attacks fall under the various violent offences provisions, mainly found in the [Crimes Act 1900 \(NSW\)](#).

In March 2009 the New South Wales Sentencing Council published a report titled ‘[Sentencing for Alcohol-Related Violence](#)’. The Council was asked to provide advice to the NSW Government on “the current principles and practices governing sentences for offences committed whilst the offender is intoxicated, including personal violence offences such as glassing; whether there is a need to change penalties or sentencing practices to address alcohol-related violence; and whether the intoxication of the offender should be added as an aggravating factor on sentencing...”.<sup>33</sup> Submissions were received from 18 bodies and agencies, including the Chief Magistrate, the Commissioner for Police and the Office of the Director for Public Prosecutions. A number of studies regarding alcohol related crime were reviewed and additional information from relevant sources was received.<sup>34</sup>

The Sentencing Council Report questions whether ‘glassing’ should be a separate, specific, offence and whether glassing is “any more heinous than conduct involving other weapons such as a knife, firearm, syringe, pool cue, bar stool or any other object that may be used offensively, or than a punch, kick or head butt (particularly where sustained and brutal)”.<sup>35</sup> The Sentencing Council Report noted that some precedents exist in NSW for isolating some forms of dangerous conduct as specific offences, particularly where they have attracted public concern (e.g. throwing objects onto motor vehicles or use of a laser pointer).<sup>36</sup> However, the Council considered that creating a specific offence for ‘glassing’ would only seem warranted if it was a “unique way of inflicting injury or occasioning death for which the existing penalties were somehow inappropriate. The Council considers ... that unlike the use of a laser pointer ... for example, it is not a unique method of occasioning injury in the context of location and circumstances in which a glass or bottle is likely to be used”.<sup>37</sup>

The Council also believed that there were sufficient available offences under which ‘glassing’ can be charged and that the available maximum sentences for offences under which glassings are currently charged are substantial. Those offences available depend upon matters such as the recklessness or the specific intent to cause grievous bodily harm and the extent of the harm inflicted. Further, it noted that:<sup>38</sup>

[T]he creation of a specific offence for glassing would risk a disproportionate outcome for conduct in a case that led to a relatively minor injury without any permanent consequences for the victim. Moreover, its potential value as a general deterrent would be limited if it were known that the use of another form of weapon attracted a lesser maximum penalty ... [However] [t]hat needs to be understood in the context that most glassing offences occur spontaneously in licensed premises, and in circumstances where little thought is given to action before it occurs.

... the court can and does take into account the nature of the weapon used and the nature and extent of any injuries inflicted.

The Council concluded that it “does not see any merit in creating a specific glassing offence, although it does recognise that such conduct carries with it a high risk of serious personal injury”.<sup>39</sup>

## **WHAT CAN BE DONE TO DECREASE GLASSING INCIDENTS?**

### **SWAPPING GLASSES TO PLASTIC OR TEMPERED GLASS AND/OR IMPOSING STRICTER REQUIREMENTS ON LICENSEES**

## **Queensland**

### ***A brief chronology of key recent events and initiatives***

In July 2008, the State Opposition had called for reforms to the liquor industry, following the many glassing attacks that had taken place on the Sunshine Coast. In particular, the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr Mark McArdle MP said in a Media Statement: “[m]ore needs to be done to stop violent thugs using glass as a weapon...Glass attacks are very dangerous and can leave life-long scarring on unsuspecting victims.”<sup>40</sup>

In 2008, the [Liquor and Other Acts Amendment Act 2008 \(Qld\)](#) (the [Amendment Act 2008](#)) was passed to implement recommendations for improving the then existing liquor legislation framework arising from the review of the *Liquor Act 1992* (Qld). The [review](#) was conducted by the Liquor Licensing Division (now part of the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR)) and involved considerable consultation with industry,

health and welfare workers, the community and other relevant stakeholders.<sup>41</sup>

The amendments to the *Liquor Act 1992* (Qld) effected by the [Amendment Act 2008](#) include:<sup>42</sup>

- establishing harm minimisation as the first object of the *Liquor Act 1992*;
- providing new Ministerial powers to ban undesirable alcohol products (e.g. those inappropriately targeting young people, rapidly increasing intoxication or encouraging irresponsible consumption);
- creating an 'irresponsible supply' provision in the legislation to make it an offence for adults to supply alcohol to a minor in private places;
- mandatory Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) and Responsible Management Of A Licensed Venue training requirements for staff, licensees and managers involved in the liquor industry;
- new powers for the chief executive to order emergency closure for up to 48 hours or licence suspension where riotous behaviour is occurring or may occur;
- standard trading hours to be from 10 am to midnight with a possible extension until 5 am;
- restructuring of licences into 'commercial' and 'community' with subcategories based on risks associated with the licensed operations;
- introducing a Risk Assessed Management Plan as a prerequisite of the licensing process to enable licensees to identify local conditions and risks and show how the business will meet those risks; and
- annual liquor licence fees based on risk factors such as trading hours and compliance.<sup>43</sup>

On 20 July 2009, the Queensland Premier, Hon AM Bligh MP, in a [Ministerial Media Statement](#), announced the establishment of a Parliamentary Inquiry into Alcohol-Related Violence (the Parliamentary Inquiry). (In a later [Ministerial Statement](#), the Premier told Parliament that this came on top of other efforts to crack down on alcohol related violence, including the introduction of the [Amendment Act 2008](#) making harm minimisation its prime objective and, among other things, "*pu[ff]ing] an end to widespread early opening hours for alcohol...*".<sup>44</sup>)

In announcing the establishment of the Parliamentary Inquiry, the Premier stated that the Inquiry was "*part of [a] determined effort to improve public safety throughout the state*".<sup>45</sup> The Inquiry is to focus on community safety and investigate preventative measures to combat alcohol-related violence.<sup>46</sup> The Premier further said "*Enough is enough - we have to act to stop glass being used as a weapon*".<sup>47</sup> The referral for the [Parliamentary Inquiry](#) (on 4 August 2009) stipulates that the Parliamentary [Law, Justice and Safety Committee](#) (the Committee) will engage with community leaders, educators, law enforcement and medical professionals as well as Liquor Licensing and the hotels industry.<sup>48</sup>

In a [Ministerial Statement](#) to State Parliament on the same date that the referral (above) was made, Hon P Lawlor MP, Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading, said that the "*Bligh Government is working with the liquor industry and the Queensland Police Service to identify high-risk venues and aims to replace glass with plastic or similar cups by the end of the year*".<sup>49</sup>

On 31 August 2009, the Committee tabled an [Issues Paper](#) outlining background information regarding the Parliamentary Inquiry to assist those persons wishing to make submissions. The issue of whether to change to plastic from glass use is one of many harm minimisation practices being considered by the Committee. The Committee's referral also states that the Committee consider '*best practice harm minimisation measures in other Australia and international jurisdictions, including specific measures such as restrictions on the use of glass*'.<sup>50</sup>

On 5 October 2009, as previously noted, the Premier, together with the Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading, Hon P Lawlor MP, [announced](#) that the [Liquor Act 1992 \(Qld\)](#) would be amended in response to an earlier commitment to ban the use of regular glass in high-risk venues by the end of 2009 and that the Parliamentary Inquiry would be given a specific reference in relation to transitioning other pubs and clubs to tempered glass or plastic, in close consultation with industry. 41 venues considered to be "high-risk", and which were to be issued with show cause notices, were named at that time.

On 8 October 2009, relevant amendments to the Gambling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill as originally introduced (providing for the insertion into the [Liquor Act](#) of a new Part 4, Division 9) were moved during Consideration in Detail. The legislation, declared urgent,<sup>51</sup> was passed on 8 October and assented to on 15 October 2009; the provisions enabling the use of regular glass to be banned in licensed premises designated as "high-risk" came into force on the assent date.<sup>52</sup> While the measures aimed at forcing venues labelled "high-risk" to implement tempered glass or plastic drinking vessels were initially to take effect from December

2009<sup>53</sup>, this date was subsequently extended until February 2010 after a number of the 74 licensees reportedly ultimately issued with “show cause” notices made application to the [Supreme Court](#) to have the notices set aside and were given more time to continue to fight the rulings.<sup>54</sup>

On 6 October 2009, the Premier, in a letter of that date, requested that

*... the Committee, in consultation with industry and the community, give consideration to the feasibility and workability of transitioning, over time, to the complete phasing out of regular glass in licensed venues.*<sup>55</sup>

On 25 November 2009, the Parliamentary Inquiry tabled its [Interim Report](#). No specific recommendations regarding strategies to avert glassing incidents have been made in the Interim Report, with the Committee to undertake further research and make recommendations in its Final Report, due by 18 March 2010.<sup>56</sup> The Committee also agreed to consider the matter requested by the Premier as part of its inquiry.<sup>57</sup>

### **Newspaper and other comment**

For selected media comment on the key 2009 initiative outlined on 5 October 2009, both in the lead up to and subsequent to its announcement, and on alcohol-fuelled violence generally, and glassing in particular, and for research findings about glassing and glassware bans, see the following items:

- According to the article ‘Coast hotels lead state in dumping glasses’ (*Sunshine Coast Daily*, 22 July 2009), a large number of Sunshine Coast pubs and clubs had already introduced plastic cups prior to the announcement of the State Government’s Inquiry on alcohol-related violence. The change to plastic has reportedly decreased the numbers of glassings.
- ‘Young drinkers happy with plastic’ (*Courier Mail*, 22 July 2009) reports on young people’s perceptions of drinking alcohol using plastic ware. Some of the responses by the young people interviewed included that alcohol tasted the same in plastic/acrylic ware, with one young person stating that if glassware were barred and “...if it stops glassing, then it’s a good thing”.<sup>58</sup> It is noted that the young people interviewed had all witnessed glassings when they were out at clubs or pubs. The newspaper article also names venues that have already swapped glass for disposable cups.
- In the article ‘Could bar stools be next?’ ([www.brisbanetimes.com.au](http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au), 3 August 2009), the Queensland Hotels Association’s (QHA) chief executive, Justin O’Connor, reportedly said the use of glass should not have to change because “a small number of idiots choose to break the law and assault others with glass”.<sup>59</sup>
  - ‘Bligh bans glasses in rough clubs’, *Australian*, 6 October 2009, p 7.
  - ‘Plastic push not fantastic: academic’, [www.brisbanetimes.com.au](http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au), 6 October 2009.
  - ‘Glass ban won’t work: Hotels Association’, [www.brisbanetimes.com.au](http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au), 6 October 2009.
  - ‘Platinum objects to place on glass list’, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, 7 October 2009.
  - ‘Glass action ‘flat out’: Not just a pen stroke, says Lawlor’, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, 8 October 2009, p.8.
  - ‘Nightspots risks’, *City South News*, 8 October 2009, p.3.
  - ‘Venue denies Bligh’s claim on glassing’, *City News*, 8 October 2009, p.3. This article reported that some city venues classed as “high-risk venues” said they had never had a patron glassed. See also ‘Hotelier slams proposed glass ban’, *City South News*, 15 October 2009, p 5.
  - ‘Restaurateurs shattered by plastic ultimatum’, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, 12 October 2009.
  - ‘Plastic just fantastic: It’s safety first at Broadie’, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, 16 October 2009.
  - ‘Stop the attacks – the case for plastic’, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, 17 October 2009, p 17.
  - Robyn Ironside, ‘Glassing casualty pans ban’, *Courier Mail*, 19 October 2009, p 10. Also available online at [couriermail.com.au](http://couriermail.com.au): see ‘Glassing victim says move to plastic cups ‘knee jerk’ reaction’.
  - Selina Steele and Sarah Vogler, ‘Glass ban setback’ – Switch to plastic doesn’t reduce violent attacks’, *Sunday Mail*, 18 October 2009, p 7. Also available online at [couriermail.com.au](http://couriermail.com.au): see ‘Switching to plastic doesn’t reduce violent attacks’. This article refers to a recent report detailing research findings concerning glassings (eg their

prevalence, circumstances associated with glassing incidents) in Gold Coast venues: see Dr Peter Cassematis and Professor Paul Mazerolle, [Understanding Glassing Incidents on Licensed Premises: Dimensions, Prevention and Control](#), Griffith University, Queensland Government, 2009. Also mentioned in this report is a study about the impact of a policy banning the use of glassware from nightclubs in Glasgow, Scotland: see Alasdair Forsyth, [‘Banning Glassware from Nightclubs in Glasgow \(Scotland\): Observed impacts, compliance and patrons’ views’](#), *Alcohol & Alcoholism*, vol 43, 2008, pp 111-117.

- Robyn Ironside and Jane Chudleigh, ‘Storm in a plastic cup – Anger at fast glass edict’, *Courier Mail*, 20 October 2009, p 15 and Patrick Lion and Leanne Edmestone, ‘Club anger at glassing blunder’, *Courier Mail*, 31 October 2009, p 11.
- Alison Sandy, ‘Glass ban extended’, *Courier Mail*, 23 October 2009, p 10.
- Alison Sandy, ‘Cheers without tears’, *Courier Mail*, 24 October 2009, p 68.
- Patrick Lion, ‘Glassing offensive not so transparent’, *Courier Mail*, 27 October 2009, p 11.
- Jeremy Pierce, ‘Beer makers go off glass’, *Courier Mail*, 30 October 2009, p 11.
- Editorial, ‘Our say – Glass bans make sense’, *Cairns Post*, 2 November 2009, p 12.
- Alison Sandy, Robin Ironside and Patrick Lion, ‘Ban for glassing accused – Zero tolerance call’, *Courier Mail*, 3 November 2009, p 8.
- Natalie Gregg, ‘Publicans win time to fight state glass ban’, *Courier Mail*, 7 November 2009.
- Janelle Miles, ‘Scar Tactics: Police blitz targets drinkers as doctors deal with soaring casualties’, *Courier Mail*, 11 December 2009, pp 1-2.
- Torny Jensen, ‘Vicious cycle: Venues told plastic cups their problem’, *MX*, 16 December 2009, p 1.
- Alison Sandy, ‘Drinkers set to raise a tempered glass right across Queensland’, *Courier Mail*, 21 January 2010, p 2.

To read the Ministerial Media Statement by Hon P Lawlor MP, Queensland’s Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading, about the transition by licensees to regular glass alternatives, click on the link below:

[‘It’s a case of glass half full as licensees switch to alternatives’](#), Ministerial Media Statement, 20 January 2010.

## New South Wales

In early December 2008, a new Schedule 4 of the [Liquor Act 2007 \(NSW\)](#)<sup>60</sup> came into effect which imposes ‘special licence conditions’ upon certain licences specified in the Schedule in relation to the premises/venues (called ‘declared premises’) to which those licences relate. The Schedule (in cl 8) enables the Director of Liquor and Gaming to exempt declared premises from specified provisions of the Schedule and impose alternative conditions.

Part 4 of Schedule 4 provides that glasses and breakable plastic containers (including bottles or jugs from which drinks can be poured) are prohibited during the restricted service period (generally midnight to 5am). Part 4 of Schedule 4 is as follows:

### 4 Glasses and breakable plastic containers prohibited during restricted service period

(1) During the restricted service period, any drink (whether or not it contains liquor) sold or supplied for consumption on declared premises must not be served or supplied in a glass or breakable plastic container.

(2) During the restricted service period, the licensee of declared premises must remove empty glasses and empty breakable plastic containers from patrons and from any area of the premises to which patrons have access.

...

(4) In this clause:

glass means:

(a) a drinking vessel, or

(b) a container (such as a bottle or jug) from which drinks can be poured,  
that is made wholly or principally of glass.

In addition, the new Sch 4 provides (in cls 3-7):

- licensees of declared premises must not permit patrons to enter (or re-enter) the premises after 2 am or before 5 am (the lock out period);
- certain drinks must not be sold or supplied on declared premises during the restricted service period (as explained earlier, generally between midnight and 5 am). These drinks include 'shots', ready to drink beverages with an alcohol by volume content of over 5%; drinks containing more than 50% spirits or liqueur. Further, a 4 drink limit (or 1 bottle of wine) is imposed during this period;
- a cessation of the supply/sale of liquor for 10 minutes each hour of the restricted service period (with free water or food to be distributed) and a cessation of the supply/sale of liquor 30 minutes before closing time.<sup>61</sup>

Similarly to Schedule 4, [further restrictions](#) as of 8 July 2009, were brought in as the final of the set of rules to combat alcohol related violence in pubs and clubs throughout New South Wales.<sup>62</sup> The Premier, the Hon Nathan Rees MP, said that the Government would work with declared venues to reduce incidents by imposing strict rules on their operations but would also reward them for their success. The nature of the requirements imposed on a venue is based on the number of incidents of assaults and "*reclassification of venues will be possible twice a year based on a review of assault data*" the Premier said.<sup>63</sup> The Premier said that the highest risk venues (19 or more assaults a year) would be subject to similar 'special conditions' already in force at 48 of the most violent pubs and clubs. Venues with reduced violent incidents will be able to be removed from the list or have the number of conditions reduced. The Premier observed that "[v]enues added to the list will be subject to the special conditions for a minimum of 6 months".<sup>64</sup>

The Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Kevin Greene MP, also said that widespread consultation had taken place to ensure the system was fair and before any conditions are imposed on licensees, they will have the opportunity to provide their venue safety plan and show cause why the licensee should not have the conditions imposed. Further, the names of venues subject to the special conditions "*will be published online to allow patrons to make informed choices when deciding where to go out*".<sup>65</sup>

The three categories of venues and the relevant restrictions in respect of each are as follows:<sup>66</sup>

**Level 1 (19 or more assaults)**

- 10 minute time out or the provision of free water and food for 10 minutes every hour after midnight
- Cease service 30 minutes prior to closure
- No glass after 12am
- 2am lockout
- No shots, no doubles and no Ready To Drink products (RTDs) (or otherwise known as pre-mixed drinks) over 5% and four alcoholic drinks per customer per order
- Extra security measures

**Level 2 (12 to 18 assaults)**

- 10 minute time out or the provision of free water and food for 10 minutes every hour after midnight
- Cease service 30 minutes prior to closure
- No glass after 12 am

**Level 3 (8 to 11 assaults)**

- Lower risk premises will be given help by the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR) to strengthen alcohol and security management.

In relation to the above laws, the NSW Premier and Minister for the Arts, the Hon N Rees MP, [stated](#) in Parliament that the new conditions placed on venues "*are about addressing a drinking culture that has got completely out of control...*".<sup>67</sup> The Premier also said, "[t]he community ... is fed up with alcohol related violence. They have had enough of the bashings, the attacks and particularly the glassings. People are entitled to enjoy a cold beer ... with their friends and family without feeling threatened".<sup>68</sup>

The newspaper article 'Cracks in no-glass policy' (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 July 2009) suggests that the NSW Government is considering a slight amelioration of its plastic cup requirement with a spokeswoman for the Gaming and Racing Minister quoted as saying: "*Tempered glass is an option the Government is looking into*". It was reported that industry groups have been lobbying the Government over its glassware ban on some venues and that the Government was considering tempered glassware, which is stronger and shatters into small fragments, as a possible alternative. It appears that there is no intention to allow the affected



venues to “return to glass”.<sup>69</sup>

## Victoria

In May 2008, the Victorian Government released the [Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan 2008-2013 'Restoring the Balance'](#). This Action Plan details immediate actions to be taken by the Victorian government regarding alcohol misuse in Victoria and establishes a long-term approach to addressing alcohol related harm and will be informed by expert advice and evidence-based practice. The Action Plan seeks to focus actions across government, stakeholders and the wider community.<sup>70</sup> It will also provide a framework for working with other Australian governments to address alcohol issues at a national level. While there do not appear to be any specific measures in the Action Plan directed at requiring pubs and clubs to replace glass with plastic or tempered glassware, there are a range of other actions aimed at reducing alcohol related violence in and around licensed venues. These include:<sup>71</sup>

- the establishment of a Liquor Licensing Compliance Directorate (the [Directorate](#)) to strengthen the enforcement of liquor laws across the State. The Directorate's 40 inspectors have the power to issue infringement notices for breaches of the law as well as a range of other inspection and monitoring powers (e.g. to enter and inspect premises and obtain search warrants);<sup>72</sup>
- a [freeze](#) on new late night (after 1 am) liquor licences in Melbourne's inner city and specified other areas until 31 December 2011;<sup>73</sup>
- more funding for Victoria Police to fast-track the recruitment of 50 extra police and granting new powers to the police to ban troublemakers from designated areas;
- stronger powers enabling Victoria Police and the Director of Liquor Licensing to act quickly to shut down problem venues. The Director can declare venues where alcohol related violence has occurred to be 'designated areas', giving police the power to issue a banning notice;
- new powers allowing Victoria Police to issue a [banning notice](#) to prevent a person from being on licensed premises and designated areas for up to 24 hours for certain offences such as assault and property damage (with the power to also seek a court order to ban repeat offenders from designated precincts for up to 12 months);
- new and [broader powers](#) for the Director to ban inappropriate alcohol advertising and promotions; suspend licences for up to 5 days; issue breach notices to licensees for non-compliance with liquor laws and licence conditions; investigate issues regarding alcohol related harm; and ensure the suitability of licensees to hold a licence;
- [targeted lockouts](#) in suburban and regional entertainment precincts to reduce the number of people gathering in and around venues;
- strict new [weapons laws](#) including new penalties for unlawfully carrying or using a weapon in and around licensed venues and removing self defence as a lawful excuse for carrying dangerous articles in cases of attack;
- proposed introduction of a [risk based fee structure](#) ensuring that venues posing more risk of harm to the community (e.g. late night, high capacity nightclubs) pay higher liquor licence fees than lower risk venues (e.g. cafes and restaurants);<sup>74</sup>
- awareness campaigns regarding the safe use of alcohol (dealt with below).

In accordance with the Director of Liquor Licensing's power to impose conditions on licences, a violent brawl at a Melbourne nightclub in March 2009 prompted the Director to set a number of new conditions on the nightclub's liquor licence. One of those conditions was that alcohol must be supplied in plastic or in shatterproof glasses and no alcohol can be purchased in bottles.<sup>75</sup> The Director's decision was welcomed by the Government, with the Minister for Consumer Affairs [stating](#) that urgent action was needed to reduce alcohol related violence in and around the venue in question.<sup>76</sup> It appears that the requirement for plastic or shatterproof glasses has not been imposed as a blanket condition on all liquor licences but, rather, on individual venues where there is evidence of alcohol related violence.<sup>77</sup>

### EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS REGARDING RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR WHEN DRINKING ALCOHOL/DRINKING CULTURE

The Queensland, NSW and Victorian governments have also implemented many education campaigns relating to safer or responsible drinking. As [noted](#) in a recent update from the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR), “removing glass in premises is not a panacea for drunk and violent patrons. We must continue to educate patrons to take responsibility for their own actions”.<sup>78</sup> The following are recent examples of some

campaigns or initiatives of most relevance to the glassing issue in Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

## Queensland

In June 2008 the former Liquor Licensing Division of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, now known as the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR), held a [forum](#) at the Gold Coast City Council.<sup>79</sup> This forum allowed many stakeholders to take part in a discussion about ways to combat glassing. The Gold Coast City Council, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Hotels Association and other community based organisations took part, aiming to provide a solution to the glassing epidemic on the Gold Coast.

On 10 October 2008, the Queensland Government launched the first stage of its *Safer Drinking Cultures* campaign with “hard-hitting” advertisements to change Queensland’s drinking culture, with a focus on young people.<sup>80</sup> The ‘*Don’t kid yourself*’ advertisements specifically targeted parents supplying alcohol to minors.

On 2 November 2008 the State Government [announced](#) the upcoming launch of stage two of its *Safer Drinking Cultures* campaign which would comprise print and other media advertisements targeting the culture of binge drinking and violence in Queensland.<sup>81</sup> The Treasurer, the Hon A Fraser MP, stated that the campaign was designed to warn young men about mixing alcohol with violence – “a scar for life, a ruined life or a life lost”.<sup>82</sup> The Treasurer further stated “It is time to take a stand against the growing culture of binge drinking and violence. It is not acceptable to go out and drink to excess without thinking about the harm you may cause yourself and those around you.”<sup>83</sup>

On 5 November 2008, the State Government launched stage two of the ‘*Safer Drinking Cultures*’ campaign “Every Drink Counts”, ([www.everydrinkcounts.qld.gov.au](http://www.everydrinkcounts.qld.gov.au)), which included advertisements which ran until June 2009. At the launch, Hon A Fraser MP, Treasurer, [stated](#) “The message is clear: Every Drink Counts. In one moment of drunken stupidity a punch can be thrown, a glass smashed into someone’s face, or a young person pushed into oncoming traffic”.<sup>84</sup>

On 19 May 2009, the Hon Peter Lawlor MP, Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading, [stated](#) that the Government’s ‘Every Drink Counts’ campaign had “returned great results but was just the first stage in a long term strategy to change the drinking culture in Queensland”.<sup>85</sup> He further stated that “[w]e have to start increasing awareness and getting a message through to Queenslanders that great harm can flow from binge drinking or drinking to excess - particularly for our young people”.<sup>86</sup>

On 19 August 2009, the Hon Peter Lawlor MP, along with Ms Grace Grace MP, Member for Brisbane Central attended a “Self Preservation Program” presentation at Kelvin Grove State College.<sup>87</sup> This pilot program, currently operating in Brisbane and Hervey Bay, aims at educating Year 11 students about responsible alcohol consumption and, on completion of the program, students are given a Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) qualification. This RSA qualification allows students to be employed in places where alcohol is served.

November 2009 saw the announcement by state and territory police commissioners of *Operation Unite*, planned as a national two-day blitz on alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour, and subsequently held on 11-12 December 2009.<sup>88</sup>

Most recently, the Parliamentary Inquiry was told that a statewide pilot program known as PARTY (prevent alcohol risk-related trauma in youth), under which Queensland high school students will visit emergency departments to view the results of alcohol-fuelled violence, is to commence in February 2010.<sup>89</sup>

## New South Wales

In December 2008 the New South Wales Government released new Teenage and Parent Guides for Alcohol Use. This initiative was to complement the [announcement](#), on 19 January 2009, of the Responsible Drinking campaign entitled ‘What are you doing to yourself?’ ([www.whatareyoudoingtoyourself.com](http://www.whatareyoudoingtoyourself.com)).<sup>90</sup> The “\$1 million campaign is jointly funded by the NSW Government and DrinkWise Australia, a not-for-profit evidence-based research and program organisation aimed at building a safer drinking culture” and the key message given is that “we all have to take personal responsibility for our behaviour when we’re socialising”.<sup>91</sup> The campaign will target six areas across NSW.

The “Play Now, Act Now” Youth Festival, [PNAN Youth Arts Festival](#), endorsed by the NSW Government Department of Health, aims to lead discussions about young people and their use of drugs and alcohol. A competition also exists for young people to use a creative medium to collaborate views and opinions on the role of drugs and alcohol in the youth culture and the broader Australian culture.<sup>92</sup>

The website “Alcohol Info” ([http://www.alcoholinfo.nsw.gov.au/welcome\\_to\\_alcohol\\_info](http://www.alcoholinfo.nsw.gov.au/welcome_to_alcohol_info)) is the official New South Wales Government website on all topics surrounding the issue of alcohol and the community. The website “outlines Government policies on alcohol including the responsible supply and consumption of alcohol,



*alcohol advertising and the role of parents, families, industry and the broader community in reducing alcohol abuse”.*

## **Victoria**

On 12 May 2009 the Victorian Government and the Victorian Police, along with AFL coaches, [launched](#) a campaign to provide “*young men with tactics to avoid alcohol-fuelled violence and stay safe when out with friends*”.<sup>93</sup> The new \$2 million ‘[Your Move/Championship Moves](#)’ campaign provides “*young men with advice on avoiding alcohol-related violent confrontations*”.<sup>94</sup> Advertising of this new initiative is through commercial television networks, print, online, outdoor advertising on public transport and indoor advertising in licensed venues, and other locations where young people congregate, such as TAFEs and Universities.<sup>95</sup> AFL coaches are also becoming ambassadors for the campaign by taking it to players and clubs throughout the state.<sup>96</sup>

Prior to this initiative, the ‘*Will You Handle Your Alcohol*’ or ‘*Will Alcohol Handle You?*’ campaign “*to educate the [Victorian] community about the wrong choices about alcohol and violence*” ran from January to April 2009.<sup>97</sup>

### **BAN ON FULL STRENGTH ALCOHOL AT MAJOR EVENTS**

In June 2009, the Queensland OLGR issued a [High Risk Event Management Guideline](#) in consultation with stakeholders. The Guideline came into effect in August 2009 to make managing larger scale events easier for organisers. The Guideline applies to the chief executive in making decisions about the conduct of high risk community and commercial public events, and the matters to be considered also include the implications of the irresponsible supply and consumption of alcohol and its impact on public safety and the community. If permission is granted, conditions can be imposed on the conduct of the event as are appropriate to the type and circumstances of the event (e.g. length and time of the event; nature of the event; numbers attending; whether it is for all ages or is an under age event). Among the list of possible conditions that may be imposed is that only disposable drink containers can be used in any public area and no glass is permitted in such areas.

(See further, the newspaper article ‘*Booze fuels brutality – full-strength grog and glasses face axe in bid to curb violence*’ which reported that the 2008 Mount Isa Rodeo has been used as the example of an event that required event holders to sell only mid-strength beer and spirits and restricted wine sales. It was reported that arrests were reduced to single levels and ambulance officers praised the changes).

In Victoria, new laws were introduced into Parliament (the [Liquor Control Reform Amendment \(Licensing\) Bill 2009 \(Vic\)](#)) in August 2009 proposing that, among the intended changes to liquor licence categories, there will be a new Major Event Licence category which would apply to events likely to have a more significant impact than lower risk activities such as a significant impact on public safety and/or amenity of the area or on the provision and organisation of public transport or emergency services. It is proposed that the Victorian Director of Liquor Licensing will have the power to determine whether the event is a major event (using the legislative criteria) and a Major Event Licence would have to be obtained to authorise the supply of alcohol in relation to the event.<sup>98</sup> The legislation has since been passed and has commenced.<sup>99</sup>

## LINKS AND FURTHER READING

### LEGISLATION

- [Liquor Act 1992 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Queensland Criminal Code \(Qld\)](#)

### MINISTERIAL MEDIA STATEMENTS

- Queensland Ministerial Media Statements: [20 January 2010](#); [10 November 2009](#); [5 October 2009](#), [20 July 2009](#); [19 May 2009](#).

### OPPOSITION MEDIA STATEMENTS

- Queensland Opposition Media Statements: [28 July 2009](#); [30 April 2009](#); [28 April 2009](#); 30 July 2008

### QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE MEDIA RELEASES

- [10 May 2009](#); [2 March 2009](#); [28 December 2008](#); [11 March 2008](#)

### DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITES

- [Queensland Health](#)
- [Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation](#)

### RELEVANT COURT DECISIONS

- [R v Toohey \[2001\] QCA 149](#)
- [R v Berryman \[2005\] QCA 471](#)
- [Kaporonovski v R \[1973\] HCA 35; \(1973\) 133 CLR 209](#)

### OTHER WEBSITES

- [Queensland Hotels Association](#)
- [Australian Medical Association Queensland](#)
- Commonwealth Government's Department of Health and Ageing's '[Drinking Nightmare](#)' website

### JOURNAL ARTICLES AND OTHER INFORMATION

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), *2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: Detailed Findings*
- World Health Organisation (WHO), '[Youth Violence and Alcohol Fact Sheet](#)', 2006
- Australian Institute of Criminology, [Integrated approaches to alcohol-related anti-social behaviour and violence](#), July 2009
- Australian Medical Association (AMA), '[Alcohol Use and Harms in Australia \(2009\)](#)', Information Paper, June 2009
- Institute of Public Affairs Review, 'Cops, not liquor regulations, reduce street violence', November 2008 (available to *Informit* subscribers)

### NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

- 'Three strikes in government glass ban' (Brisbanetimes.com.au, 21 July 2009)
- 'Man's head gashed in glassing at Southport Leagues Club' (*Gold Coast Bulletin*, 13 July 2009)
- 'Young glassing victim has to carry life sentence on his face: Cheering greets verdict of not guilty'

(*Gold Coast Bulletin*, 5 June 2009)

- 'No bail for man on glassing charge as doctors fight to save injured eye' (*Gold Coast Bulletin*, 20 May 2009)
- 'Glassing toll grows' (*Brisbanetimes.com.au*, 18 May 2009)
- 'Glassing attacks on the rise' (*Brisbanetimes.com.au*, 29 April 2009)
- 'Glassings on the rise, say police' (*Gold Coast Bulletin*, 29 April 2009) – Glasses have become the 'weapon of choice' among pub and club goers.
- 'Glassing crackdown: Judge gets tough with Coolangatta Hotel thug' (*Gold Coast Bulletin* 28 April 2009)
- 'Man critical after stabbing attacks' (*Courier Mail*, 29 December 2008)
- 'Glasses girl in tears' (*Courier Mail*, 4 November 2008)
- 'Shock and gore adverts to target binge-drinkers' (*Sunday Mail*, 2 November 2008). Qld State Government targets young men in a campaign to stamp out binge-drinking, incidents of glassing, pub brawls and alcohol related violence and injuries.

## Tasmania

- 'Surge in glass warfare' (*Mercury*, 1 January 2009) – in Tasmania, glass is reportedly third on a list of weapons used in assaults. It was reported that, in the period 2007-2008, there had been a 75% increase in glassing attacks, totalling 68 attacks.

## South Australia

- 'Jail over beer glass attack' (*ABC News and Information*, Adelaide, 15 June 2009). The attacker was sentenced to 4 years in jail after the victim was hit over the head with a broken beer glass.

## Western Australia

- 'Man facing jail for glassing footballer' (*West Australian*, 21 April 2009). The attacker pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm.

## Northern Territory

- 'Drunk glassing attacks explode' (*Northern Territory News*, 11 November 2008). This article reports that there have been 37 glassing attacks in the Northern Territory since 2005. Police want plastic cups instead of glass.

## United Kingdom

Glassing attacks are also occurring outside of Australia, such as in the United Kingdom. For media reports, see:

- 'Teenager has face slashed' (*Evening Chronicle*, 18 May 2009)
- 'Air stewardess jailed for wine glass attack on student' (*Telegraph.co.uk*, 27 February 2009). This article includes a photo of the injuries to the face of the victim. Attacker jailed for 2½ years for unlawful wounding.
- 'Purge on glass attacks pays off', (downloaded from <http://www.thisishullandeastriding.co.uk>, 9 January 2009). Since May 2008 a total of 48,000 polycarbonate glasses have been distributed to pubs and clubs in the city of Hull, resulting in a major drop in the number of attacks.
- 'Glass Attack Thug Jailed For Six Years' (*DailyRecord.co.uk*, 18 March 2008). A Scottish judge hands down a jail sentence of 6 years to the perpetrator who destroyed one of the victim's eyes in a glassing attack.

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## ENDNOTES

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- <sup>1</sup> James Madden, 'Greg Bird sentenced to 16 months over glassing incident', *Australian Online*, 22 June 2009. See also, 'Bird guilty of glassing girlfriend', *ABC Online*, 28 April 2009.
- <sup>2</sup> Katelyn Catanzariti, 'Bird has conviction quashed'. *Courier Mail*, 26 November 2009, p 14. See also 'Greg Bird has conviction quashed', *theherald.com.au*, 25 November 2009.
- <sup>3</sup> Anna Caldwell, 'Brisbane Lions star Albert Proud avoids jail for glassing', *Courier Mail Online*, 28 July 2009.
- <sup>4</sup> Hon AM Bligh MP, Premier and Minister for Arts, '[Bligh: Parliamentary Inquiry to put alcohol related violence into focus](#)', *Ministerial Media Statement*, 20 July 2009.
- <sup>5</sup> Hon AM Bligh MP, '[Bligh: Parliamentary Inquiry to put alcohol related violence into focus](#)'.
- <sup>6</sup> Hon P Lawlor MP, Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading, 'Alcohol Related Violence', Ministerial Statement, *Queensland Parliamentary Debates*, 4 August 2009, p 1309.
- <sup>7</sup> Hon P Lawlor MP, 'Alcohol Related Violence', p 1309.
- <sup>8</sup> Hon AM Bligh MP, Queensland Premier and Minister for Arts & Hon P Lawlor MP, Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading (Joint Statement), '[Licensed venues must show cause to keep glass](#)', *Ministerial Media Statement*, 5 October 2009.
- <sup>9</sup> Patrick Lion and Anna Caldwell, 'Delay on glass ban', *Courier Mail*, 23 November 2009; Alison Sandy and Rosemary Odgers, 'A glassless society: Bligh keen to see if ban can apply to all Queensland licensed venues', *Courier Mail*, 26 November 2009, p 7.
- <sup>10</sup> Hon AM Bligh MP, Queensland Premier and Minister for Arts & Hon P Lawlor MP, Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading (Joint Statement), '[Licensed venues must show cause to keep glass](#)', *Ministerial Media Statement*, 5 October 2009.
- <sup>11</sup> Click on the [Inquiry's home page](#) to follow its progress. The Inquiry has been given a reporting date of 18 March 2010.
- <sup>12</sup> Queensland. Legislative Assembly. Law, Justice and Safety Committee (LJSC), '[Referral for Parliamentary Inquiry into Alcohol-Related Violence](#)', 4 August 2009.
- <sup>13</sup> Hon AM Bligh MP, '[Bligh: Parliamentary Inquiry to put alcohol related violence into focus](#)'.
- <sup>14</sup> Hon AM Bligh MP, '[Bligh: Parliamentary Inquiry to put alcohol related violence into focus](#)'.
- <sup>15</sup> Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing, '[Drinking Nightmare](#)' website.
- <sup>16</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in its *2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: Detailed Findings*, Drug Statistics Series No 22, Cat PHE 107, Canberra, December 2008, (the *AIHW Survey Report*), pp 85-92. The National Drug Strategy (NDS) was created (under a different title) in 1985 to confront the impact that illicit and licit drugs (including alcohol) have on the Australian community. The NDS is a cooperative venture between all levels of government and the non-government sector aimed at improving outcomes by preventing the acceptance of harmful drug use and reducing the harmful effects of such. It is overseen by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (*AIHW Survey Report*, p 1).
- <sup>17</sup> Australian Medical Association (AMA), '[Alcohol Use and Harms in Australia \(2009\)](#)', Information Paper, June 2009, citing R Room & M Livingston, 'Variation by age in the harm per drinking volume and heavier drinking occasion', 2007, Melbourne, AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre.

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