

Top Tips – The Summer Festive Session

Factsheet

INFORMATION EXCHANGE



The summer festive session is a busy time for many venues. Longer days and summer weather means there are more people going out and increased patronage for your venue.

End of year exams, schoolies, Christmas or other religious celebrations, New Year's Eve and Australia day requires licensees and staff to be extra vigilant regarding the sale and promotion of liquor.

This fact sheet offers tips on safe and compliant trading during the festive period.

Under 18s

Tough sanctions and penalties apply when alcohol is sold to minors in venues, restaurants or bottle shops, including licence suspension and/or cancellation.

Best practice to prevent alcohol from being sold or supplied to under 18s at your venue is to ensure all ID presented is checked closely.

What is acceptable ID

- Current driver's licence (or interstate equivalent).
- Current passport.
- Current NSW Photo Card (issued by the Roads & Maritime Services RMS).
- Current proof of age card issued in another State or Territory.
- **NOTE:** NSW proof of age cards are no longer produced and cannot be accepted.

Intoxicated Patrons

As patronage increases, so does the risk of intoxication.

Venues can also be given a strike under the Three Strike scheme.

TIPS

- Intoxicated patrons cannot be served alcohol in licensed venues at any time.
- Intoxicated patrons are to be refused entry or removed from the venue immediately.
- Offer alternatives to full strength alcohol, such as low alcohol beer or wine, water and soft drinks, or even coffee beverages.

How can I tell if someone is intoxicated?

- The person's speech, balance, co-ordination or behaviour is noticeably affected.
- It is reasonable in the circumstances to believe that the affected speech, balance, co-ordination or behaviour is the result of the consumption of alcohol.

Did you know - intoxication offences can see you and your staff face fines of up to \$11,000 and penalty notices up to \$1,100.

Liquor Promotions

Many venues offer liquor promotions to attract customers during peak trading periods such as Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and Australia Day.

TIPS

- Liquor promotions must comply with responsible serving practices.

7 principles for compliance

1. The promotion must not have a special appeal to minors, because of the designs, names, motifs or characters in the promotion that are, or are likely to be, attractive to minors for any other reason.
2. The promotion must not be indecent or offensive.
3. The promotion must not involve the use of non-standard measures that encourages irresponsible drinking and is likely to result in intoxication.
4. The promotion should not use emotive description or advertising that encourages irresponsible drinking and is likely to result in intoxication.
5. The promotions should not involve the provision of free drinks or extreme discounts, or discounts for a limited duration that creates an incentive for patrons to consume liquor more rapidly than they otherwise might.
6. The promotion should not otherwise encourage irresponsible, rapid or excessive consumption of liquor.
7. The promotion should not be otherwise considered to not be in the public interest.

REMEMBER: Irresponsible liquor promotions risk fines of up to \$5,500, or disciplinary action can be taken by the.

Safety & Security

All venues want to ensure both their patrons and staff are safe whilst enjoying the festive season.

TIPS

- Ensure adequate security staff on hand at peak trading times.
- Brief security clearly on their roles and responsibilities.
- Operate to your venue patron capacity, as overcrowding can make responsible service of alcohol more difficult to do.
- For patrons booking events or functions at your venue, provide them with information on responsible drinking, patron behaviour, patron and staff safety, and alcohol related legislation.

Signage

Signage can help staff and patrons understand their obligations at your venue, restaurant or bottle shop.

TIPS

- Complete our Self-Audit Checklist from the OLGR website to assist you with signage obligations.
- Make sure your signs are up to date and displayed correctly and prominently.

Transport

We all want to get home safely from a night out.

Safe and effective transport is important to your patrons and creates a safe neighbourhood free from noise complaints and alcohol-related harm.

TIPS

- Contact your local police, council or RMS to discuss funding, partnership or local transport options.
- Promote safe transport options by briefing staff on available transport and with posters and electronic displays within your venue.

For more information

You can contact us on 02 9995 0312 or email: accords@olgr.nsw.gov.au