

Gillen Club
57 Milner Rd
Alice Springs NT 0870



4/7/17

Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review
C/- Department of Health
PO Box 40596
Casuarina NT 0811

Dear Review Panel,

The Gillen Club is a family and community focused club in Alice Springs which operates under four foundation clubs being – West's Football Club, West Netball Club, Wests Cricket Club and Wests Rugby League.

The Gillen Club also:

- Has a membership of 6500
- Employs 40 staff.
- Invest more than \$1.4 million in wages
- Invest in our local economy with more than 95% of all expenditure staying in the Alice Springs supporting local business.
- Contributed \$400,000 to our community sporting and charitable organisations in 2015/2016 alone in both cash and in kind support.
- Support an additional 25 community sporting organisations, service clubs and charity organisations in Alice Springs
- Purchased 45% of the Gillen Club premises back from the landlord for \$3.5 Million in 2015. The Club currently has a \$2m liability on this loan.

In consultation with our membership, The Gillen Club would formally like to offer its support to the AHA (NT) and Clubs NT submissions, with further comments regarding the following:

1. Liquor license fees and risk-based licensing fees.

The Gillen Club strongly oppose any proposal for the introduction of a risk based liquor license fee or for that matter, any other liquor related fee that will impose additional financial burden to an already strained industry. The combination of a declining population base, diverse geographical challenges, higher operating costs, uncertain labour force, coupled with Australia's highest taxation, differentiates us from other jurisdictions.

Given the current economic down turn, many clubs are still burdened with higher than normal operational overheads. In addition to this the Northern Territory government introduced two more public holiday periods for Xmas Eve and News Eve which attracts the very high public holiday penalty rates during our busiest trading period. More recently, the Fair Work Commission recently handed down its annual wage review with an increase of 3.3% as of 1st July to our Clubs Award, a further burden on top of lowering prices and a diminishing market share.

The most significant increase in costs has come with the NT Governments recent decision to increase Gaming Tax. Based on the Gillen Club's gaming performance the increase will see us pay an additional \$126,000 a year in tax. This figure represents 25% of our net profit result for the 2015-16 financial year.

The introduction of licence fees on top of recent tax and wage increases, would seriously hurt our ability to service our financial commitments as well as restrict our capacity to support our foundation clubs and members.

2. Licensed Trading hours

In line with ClubsNT and the AHA (NT), the Gillen Club supports maintaining the status quo for off-premise trading hours on Sunday. Any further relaxation in this regard will only increase availability and activities related to alcohol related anti-social behaviour. This would especially be a problem in the Alice Springs region given the already existing issues.

3. Liquor License application process

We support the concept of a 'Commission' to review liquor license applications. In addition, we urge the review panel to empower the commission to invite existing licensees that maybe impacted, or peak industry representatives, for written comments regarding the application of new or variations to liquor licences

4. Liquor license categories

Gillen Club support a clearly defined category for liquor licenses, and in particular licensed clubs.

Gillen Club proposes changes to the Licensed Club liquor license conditions that currently constrain the enjoyment of the wider community. The proposed changes will broaden community participation in licensed clubs, which ultimately benefit those community sporting and community clubs they represent.

It is important to recognise that the liquor license conditions are the governing legislation to the operations of a licensed club, whilst the constitutions of individual clubs are subservient to the first.

The following proposes to expand on existing and offer new conditions (some of which are in-line with other jurisdictions);

NT Licensed Club Trading Conditions

Clubs may sell liquor for consumption on the premises only to;

- A member of the club
- A guest of a member
- A member of a club with formal reciprocal rights
- A guest of a member of club with formal reciprocal rights
- An application for membership for 30 days after receipt of application
- An interstate or overseas visitor
- A visitor who resides more than 15km from the club
- A person attending a function on the premises.
- A register of all members and a register of all visitors to the club (except minors, visiting players, function attendees) must be maintained, and be available for inspection at the premises at any time.

Clubs may sell liquor for consumption off the premises to;

- Members of the club
- Members of clubs with formal reciprocal rights
- An application for membership for 30 days after receipt of application

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- An interstate or overseas visitor
- Visitors authorised by the management committee (or representative) playing a sport that is part of the club's business, including teams and officials, for the day on which the sport is played only.

Removal of other specific conditions;

- On any one day, a member shall not sign in more than six visitors.

7. Industry Codes of Practice

Codes of practice are an effective conduit to promote higher standards of responsible promotion, service and consumptions of liquor. These Codes of Practice can then be important guidelines for Liquor Accords. The Gillen Club supports additional Codes of Practice that provide guidance in the areas of On-Premise, Take-away, and Responsible consumption of Liquor.

8. Responsible practice and RSA

The Gillen Club is committed to the highest standard of responsible service of alcohol. We would support the development a culturally relevant RSA certificate or course that is readily available for staff to access in the Alice Springs Region.

Whilst we can fully understand the need for a liquor review, it is vital that the panel looks towards the source of alcohol issues in the NT, rather than impose further restrictions and penalties on Clubs that trade responsibly and within their licence.

Alice Springs has recently seen the closure of two major Clubs being the Alice Springs Memorial Club and the Alice Springs RSL. Even with this reduction in licensed club licences we have seen a continued seen a reduction in Food & Beverage trade since these clubs have folded.

On behalf of the Gillen Club I thank you for undertaking this review and inviting us to be a part of it.

Regards,



Kyle Pearson
General Manager
Gillen Club