

## YARRA PACKAGED LIQUOR FORUM MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Tuesday 6 June 2017 **Time:** 2:00pm – 3:00pm

**Location:** Stomping Ground Beer Hall - 100 Gipps Street, Collingwood

**Members/other attendees present:** refer to Attendance Register

**Chair:** Inspector Dean McGowan (Victoria Police)

<i>Items discussed</i>	<i>Actions (where relevant)</i>
<p><u>Welcome and introductions</u></p> <p>The chair welcomed people to the forum.</p> <p><u>Victoria Police update</u></p> <p>Acting Inspector Andrew Brick, Local Area Commander - Victoria Police</p> <p>Inspector Dean McGowan, Local Area Commander - Victoria Police</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is common to see theft related offending being under-report right across the packaged liquor sector.</li> <li>• Police and Packaged Liquor Outlets have a moral obligation to stop thefts and deter would-be offenders from targeting these stores, as the flow on effect on crime (broken windows theory) can be significant.</li> <li>• It is Important to remember that any significant theft or potential trend is reported and information/intelligence on these potential crime syndicates is shared.</li> <li>• A high number of thefts and associated on-selling was occurring in Richmond and Abbotsford, especially within Victoria Street.</li> <li>• Offending in May and June of 2016 went up some 300-400% from the normal realms of this crime category.</li> <li>• Between May and October 2016 police made 75 arrests relating to alcohol thefts. This decreased to 33 between November 2016 and April 2017 which is in line with the declining rate of offending during this time.</li> <li>• Overall thefts have reduced significantly due to arrests and Operation Kevlar II which involved a high police presence. Other reasons include target hardening measures and improved security implemented in stores, media engagement, VCGLR assistance, Operation FOS (checking of restaurants), and safer communities engagement.</li> <li>• Over the next 12 months Operation Kevlar II will be replaced with a wider ranging operation that has an increased focus on community engagement. This will include partnerships with local traders, Council and State Government. Yarra Crime Investigation Unit will continue with covert operations.</li> <li>• Staff should not be alarmed if Victoria Police visit their stores. People are encouraged to report thefts and also any trends (such as certain types of liquor being targeted).</li> <li>• While levels of thefts are now below May 2016 levels and displacement to other areas has occurred, thefts could again increase in Yarra. Approximately 80% of crimes committed in Yarra are by those not living in the area.</li> </ul>	

Member discussion / learnings including best practices and initiatives for deterring thefts and responding to other safety concerns

Liquor Forum members

- The use of perspex screens and security staff have improved outcomes in a number of stores.
- Can explore option of banning patrons within stores and sharing information on banned patrons. This can be done formally through a Packaged Liquor Accord (like the one Geelong has) or informally between stores through existing provisions.

Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) update

Veronica Goluzza, Manager Education - VCGLR

- Reminder to be mindful of underage patrons and secondary supply laws especially with the long weekend approaching. Record incidents in incident book and maintain RSA registers (staff will need the password for online access).
- Reminder regarding keeping signage up to date. Also important to be aware of marketing and promotion restrictions.
- Stores should ensure that staff are equipped with the capacity to refuse service where required. If appropriate identification cannot be provided (where required) service should be refused.
- Sample Packaged Liquor Licence House Rules are available from the VCGLR website - house rules for stores should include same information.
- VCGLR are now on Facebook.

Other business / future meetings

- Attendees expressed an interest in having further forums that are specific to packaged liquor outlets, approximately every six months.

Erika to organise another packaged liquor forum for approximately 6 months' time.