

## **Inquest into the death of Stephen Arthur Nash**

Stephen Arthur Nash died on 20 February 2012 from hypoxic brain injury which followed a cardiorespiratory arrest that occurred after he punched a security provider at the Union Jack Hotel in Cairns on 18 February 2012. He was restrained face down for approximately 12 minutes by security providers and hotel staff until the arrival of police.

State Coroner Terry Ryan delivered his findings of inquest on 24 November 2014.

The Queensland Government responds to recommendations directed to government agencies at inquests by informing the community if a recommendation will be implemented or the reason why a recommendation is not supported. The department named in this response will provide implementation updates until the recommendation is delivered. Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible minister named in the response.

### **Comment 1, page 27**

One measure that should be included in assessing whether the strategy is succeeding is a reduction in the number of deaths associated with violence in and around licensed premises.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Department of Premier and Cabinet.

On 20 August 2015, the Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships responded:

The government sees merit in the coroner's recommendation, and will provide a more substantive response to the issue raised as part of a whole-of-government strategic approach to addressing alcohol-related violence.

The Queensland Government is currently implementing its election commitments to address alcohol-related violence and considering the status of other existing initiatives. This will include consideration of the appropriate evaluation framework to assess the success of initiatives in reducing alcohol-related violence in and around licensed premises. How the coroner's recommendation can be most effectively implemented is best considered as part of these deliberations.

### **On 20 July 2017 The Premier and Minister for the Arts responded:**

The Queensland Government is committed to reducing alcohol-fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour in the community. After extensive consultation with industry and community stakeholders, the government developed a comprehensive, multi-faceted Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence Policy (the policy), that is designed to achieve the following outcomes:

- i. cultural change around drinking behaviour, including more responsible drinking practices
- ii. a safer night-time environment, in particular in entertainment precincts, including a reduction in the number of deaths associated with violence in and around licensed premises (consistent with the coronial recommendation for the inquest into the death of Stephen Arthur Nash)

- iii. a regulatory framework that appropriately balances the interests of the liquor industry with a reduction in alcohol-fuelled violence.

On 17 February 2016, the Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 was passed in Parliament. Key measures include:

- statewide last drinks at 2 am from 1 July 2016
- permitting approved venues in Safe Night Precincts to sell liquor until 3 am from 1 July 2016
- prohibition on the sale of high-alcohol content, rapid consumption drinks from midnight, the definition of which will be contained in regulations, to be determined after further consultation with stakeholders
- no new approvals for the sale of takeaway liquor after 10 pm. Licensees with approval granted prior to 10 November 2015 may continue to do so in accordance with their licence.

The changes to the alcohol trading hours are just one component of a suite of measures aimed at fostering a safer nightlife environment and promoting a responsible drinking culture. In addition to ensuring that the police and courts have the necessary support and powers to respond to incidents of alcohol-fuelled violence, the government's policy also involves efforts to change the behaviour of people who go out and consume alcohol. Enhanced education and compliance measures and support for locally directed management of precincts aim to ensure safe and respectful behaviour for all involved. The government has also committed to supporting boxer Danny Green's Coward's Punch campaign.

On 23 January 2017, following consideration of a six-month report of the independent evaluation of the policy, the Queensland Government announced a variety of changes including additional measures to reduce the toll of alcohol-fuelled violence in a quantifiable and effective manner, including:

- repealing the 1 am lockout provisions which were set to take effect on 1 February 2017
- reducing the number from 12 to six per year for temporary permits that allow trading until 5 am in SNPs
- limiting the use of the one-off permits to special events to be defined by criteria approved by the Queensland Government, rather than 5 am trading being 'business as usual'
- enforcing the operation of mandatory identification scanners from 1 July 2017 in SNPs
- extending police banning orders for persons convicted with supplying or trafficking dangerous drugs in a licensed premises or in a public place in the vicinity of licensed premises, and where the offender poses an unacceptable risk to the safety and good order of the licensed premises and entertainment precinct area generally
- extending police banning orders for persons convicted with supplying or trafficking dangerous drugs in a licensed premises or surrounding area, and where the offender poses an unacceptable risk to the safety and good order of the licensed premises and entertainment precinct area generally.

A copy of the six-month evaluation report can be found on the Premier and Minister for Arts [website](#). The Queensland Government will continue to monitor the effects of the policy, including

considering further reports from the independent two-year evaluation (i.e. for the period of 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2018, with the final report to be provided to government by 31 October 2018). The independent evaluation is a legislative commitment and will ensure that a robust evaluation of the impact of the policy on the community is undertaken to inform future policy decisions.

Deakin University, working with the University of Queensland, James Cook University and La Trobe University, has been engaged by government to undertake the independent evaluation of the policy. The evaluation will consider the extent to which the policy is achieving its objectives, defined as including a safer night-time environment, in particular in entertainment precincts, including a reduction in the number of deaths associated with violence in and around licensed premises.

The independent evaluation team will deliver its final evaluation report to government by the end of October 2018.

**On 28 June 2018 the Premier and Minister for Trade responded:**

The Queensland Government remains committed to the Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence Policy (the policy) and its evidence-based initiatives which provide a comprehensive and multi-faceted framework designed to reduce alcohol fuelled violence in a meaningful way.

Since the commencement of the policy measures in mid-2016, the Queensland Government is pleased to note that there have been no deaths associated with violence in and around licensed premises across the state.

The Queensland Government also remains committed to the independent evaluation of the policy. The evaluation is considering the extent to which the policy is achieving its objectives, defined as including a safer night-time environment, in particular in entertainment precincts, including a reduction in the number of deaths associated with violence in and around licensed premises.

The final evaluation report is scheduled to be provided to government towards the end of 2018 and will be used to inform future policy decisions to tackle alcohol-related violence, including ensuring a safer night-time environment in and around licensed premises. Further information on the evaluation can be found on the Premier of Queensland's [website](#).