Stawell Liquor Accord 2022-2028









Justice and Community Safety

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1. AIM

"To improve public safety, amenity and perceptions of safety by reducing alcohol related crime and harm in Stawell community".

2. BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Stawell Liquor Accord is to draw together representatives of key licensed venues to recognise and address issues of excessive alcohol consumption and unacceptable practices that contribute to community and social problems.

Licensees give a written commitment to uphold the codes of conduct outlined within the Accord document, including the support of measures to reduce levels of alcoholrelated crime, disorder and nuisance within the Stawell area.

3. INTRODUCTION

The Stawell Liquor Accord provides partnership opportunities for developing collaborative and proactive approaches to minimising the harms associated with alcohol misuse, improving safety and amenity and reducing alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour.

The Stawell Liquor Accord involves a variety of partners including Victoria Police, Northern Grampians Shire Council, Liquor Licensees, Liquor Control Victoria (LCV) and community stakeholders.

The Stawell Liquor Accord is committed to strategies, which promote positive and effective outcomes through:

- minimising the harms associated with the excessive alcohol consumption;
- o improving safety and amenity; and
- o reducing alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour

Benefits include:

- Keeping up-to-date with changes to liquor laws
- Contributing and making a difference in your local community
- Getting to know your local police, council and LCV representatives
- Enhancing your business and making your venue welcoming and safe for everyone
- Networking with colleagues and stakeholders.

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4. PRIORITY AREAS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Priority Area:	Addressing contributors to alcohol related crime and harm		
Objective:	To reduce factors that contribute to alcohol related crime and violence in and around licensed venues		
Strategies:	 Adhere to Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA); Eliminate practices that lead to the misuse of alcohol; Eliminate illegal underage patronage at all licensed premises; Eliminate false identification used by underage persons; Eliminate promotions and practices that encourage the irresponsible service and consumption of alcohol; and Adhere to any voluntary lockouts 		
Priority Area:	Creating a safe environment in and around licensed premises.		
Objective:	To improve safety and perceptions of safety in and around licensed venues		
Strategies:	 Maintain a high standard of public amenity within the central business district; Working collaboratively with responsible body to protect physical amenity; Adhere to best practice in the management of licensed premises; Identify and report issues of public safety to the responsible body; Actively contribute to the development of projects and programs that improve safety and perceptions of safety around licensed venues. 		
Priority Area:	Positively contributing to public health, wellbeing and safety.		
Objective:	To contribute to the health, wellbeing and safety of residents and visitors to Stawell		
Strategies:	 Encouraging positive health and social behaviours by the community, in relation to the consumption of alcohol; Promote and encourage the use of "Designated Driver" programs Support and promote best practice programs which improve the health, wellbeing and safety of residents and visitors to the precinct. 		

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5. BEST PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

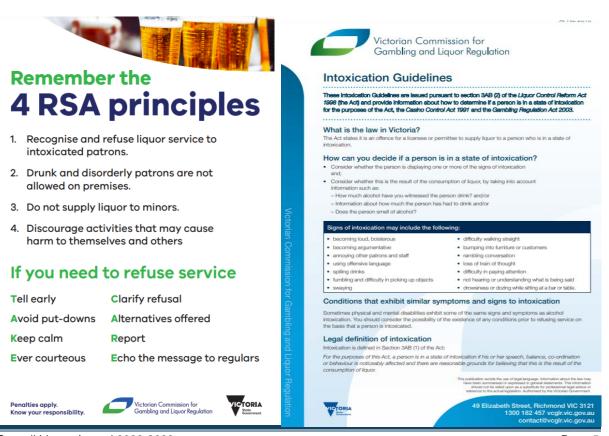
This section outlines industry accepted best practice principles for licensees. It is expected that licensees committed to the Stawell Liquor Accord adhere to these principles in order to operate a business within a best practice framework.

The Stawell Liquor Accord – Best Practice Principles are founded on a harm minimisation approach that aims to minimise and reduce harm to individuals, families and the broader community as a result of alcohol and other drugs misuse.

In applying these principles, it is recognised that some aspects outlined may only apply to a certain types of liquor licence. For example *'Ensure that the maximum capacity numbers of patrons are adhered to at all times'* would not apply to packaged liquor outlets. However, most of the recommendations contained in this section have been modified to apply to all licence types.

5.1. Responsible Service of Alcohol

- Refuse service of alcohol to any patron showing signs of intoxication;
- Refuse entry to all intoxicated patrons;
- Encourage patrons to drink responsibly and let them know they will be asked to leave if they become intoxicated, disorderly, violent or quarrelsome; and
- Notify crowd controllers of patrons who are showing signs of intoxication so that crowd controllers can monitor and manage the situation.
- Ensure staff, are adequately trained to identify intoxicated patrons.
 https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/Intoxication_guidelines.pdf.pdf
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQ1xpd8phF4



5.1.2. Minors

Minors on licensed premises

Anyone under the age of 18 years is considered a minor.

The legal drinking age in Victoria is 18 years. It's illegal for any person to supply alcohol to a minor on licensed premises. It's also illegal for a minor to be on licensed premises to purchase, receive or consume alcohol.

Minors are not permitted to drink alcohol on licensed premises under any circumstances.

Depending on the situation, a minor may be allowed on licensed premises.

A minor may be on licensed premises if they are in the company of a *responsible* adult.

A responsible adult is defined as a person who is 18 years or older and is:

- o the minor's parent, step-parent, guardian, grandparent, or
- o the minor's spouse who is over the age of 18 years, or
- a person who is acting in place of a parent and who could reasonably be expected to exercise responsible supervision of the minor – for example, a sporting coach.

An unaccompanied minor cannot be on licensed premises unless:

- there is a condition allowing them to be on the licence (for example, a junior sports club)
- o it holds a restaurant and cafe licence (until 11pm)
- o it holds an on-premises licence with restaurant conditions (until 11pm)

Other circumstances that permit minors on licensed premises are if the minor is:

- o having a meal, or
- o is a resident of the premises if accommodation is supplied, or
- o employed by the licensee but not involved in the supply of alcohol, or
- completing an LCV approved training program in hospitality, and it is part of a
 hospitality training program and the course provider has the approval of the
 LCV for that to occur. This approval is normally given in writing and under the
 condition they are closely supervised whilst serving.

5.1.3. Checking Identification

One of the key aims of this Code of Practice is to actively discourage illegal underage patronage and with that, illegal underage drinking on or from licensed premises of all kinds. To achieve this:

- Insist on the production of acceptable evidence of age documents, as specified by the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*, for entry to all licensed venues/point of sale where appropriate;
- Prominently display LCV signage about restrictions on minors;
- When checking ID, the ID is removed from a wallet/purse or cardholder and held by the staff member conducting the check to ensure it is current and an acceptable form of identification (see list further below)

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- If an acceptable form of ID is not supplied, no admittance to the premises is to be permitted unless the patron is obviously over the age of 18 years. Entry will be at the discretion of the venue operator or delegate;
- If an acceptable form of ID is requested and not supplied at a packaged liquor outlet, no sale will be permitted to take place unless the patron is obviously over the age of 18 years. Entry will be at the discretion of the venue operator or delegate; and
- If staff believe that a document being presented is false, defaced or in the possession of a person who is not the owner of the ID then the document will be confiscated and handed to the police (excluding a driver's licence).

Acceptable evidence of age documents under the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* are:

- o Australian driver licence (including NSW & SA digital drivers licence)
- Victorian learner permit
- Foreign driver licence in the English language or if not in the English language, must be accompanied by an official English translation or an International Driving Permit
- Victorian proof of age card or an equivalent from another state or territory of Australia
- Keypass card (including <u>digital keypass</u> (i))
- Australian or foreign passport
- Victorian marine licence

5.1.4 Discourage activities that encourage drinking alcohol excessively

 All licensees (members) of the Stawell Liquor Accord are to become familiar with the LCV <u>"Responsible Liquor Advertising and Promotions" guidelines</u>.

Actively discourage irresponsible alcohol consumption practices such as:

- Free or heavily discounted drinks on entry or during the night at licensed venues:
- Lay backs, two for one drinks, short term price reductions and the indiscriminate distribution of drink cards (Distribution of free drink cards must be in a direct sponsorship or formally structured promotional plan);
- o All-inclusive events which have the potential for alcohol abuse
- Serving of liquor to persons already adversely affected by alcohol;
- Serving of 'shooters' after 12:01AM;
- No pricing practices or promotions that encourage rapid consumption of alcohol or alcohol abuse are conducted;
- No practices or promotions to encourage rapid consumption of alcohol such as Drinking Games, Skolling Competitions, Dares or Challenges and no Pouring Straight Alcohol into patrons mouths;
- No advertising of events that encourage excessive consumption of alcohol eg, being binge drinking, sporting clubs end of season celebrations (Mad

- Monday), end of school celebrations (schoolies week), start of university celebrations (O-Week);
- Happy Hours will be kept to a maximum of two hours per day, per venue operation and will be completed by 11:00pm on any operating night; and
- Serve drinks at standard measures.

Amounts for only 1 Standard Drink

The following amounts are a guide for 1 standard drink based on the alcohol content. These are calculated based on the formula supplied by the Department of Health and Ageing (reference).



https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/promotions-banned-vcglr

https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/liquor/restaurant-cafe/understand-your-liquor-licence/responsible-alcohol-advertising-and-promotion

5.1.5 Promote non-alcoholic or low alcoholic beverages and snacks

- At all times, offer and promote the availability of low and non-alcoholic drinks, through signage;
- Ensure bottled water is available for purchase and free tap water is available to all patrons; (This is a legal requirement under section 99A Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 –
 https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/optional_signage_free_water_a
- Ensure refreshments (food) are readily available on the licensed premises for purchase and be in a position to provide such refreshments on request at any time where liquor is available for supply (This is a legal requirement under section 99 Liquor Control Reform Act 1998)

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5.1.6 Ensure all staff, are adequately trained.

- RSA training is mandatory for licensees and staff selling, offering or serving liquor for general, on-premises, late night and packaged liquor licences.
- Licensees and staff who are subject to mandatory RSA requirements have one month from the date they first sell, offer for sale or serve liquor on a licensed premise to complete an approved RSA training course
 - https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/i-want/get-or-refresh-my-rsa-rsg
- Once you have completed the Nationally accredited RSA course (SITHFAB002/021) you must complete a free online refresher course every three years https://liquor.vcglr.vic.gov.au/rsa_refresher/
- A list/register of minors employed on the premises (which may be the business time and wages record book) is maintained by the licensee and is available upon request for viewing by an authorised officer of the Victorian Police or authorised person;
- Have a copy of every staff members most recent correctly branded RSA certificate available on request. Inspectors will only accept correctly branded certificates. Statement of Attainments are not acceptable.
- Provide regular updates to all staff regarding the Accord and related responsible service of alcohol and harm minimisation policies and practices;
- Ensure strict reference checks are conducted on all staff in the context of good recruitment practices, including security staff; Status of crowd controller's licences/registration can checked here
- Ensure staff have access to relevant literature on the Accord, liquor laws and regulations and surrounding business owners and residents to achieve this outcome; and
- Cooperate with Victoria Police, Northern Grampians Council and fellow operators to ensure this code of practice can be effectively implemented across Stawell.

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5.2 RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL SELF AUDIT CHECKLIST

The attached Self-Audit Checklist is designed to assess the effectiveness of the licensee's commitment to Responsible Service of Alcohol.

Requirement	Yes	No	Action Required
Licensees have completed and are			
trained in the Licensees "New			
Entrant Training" course.			
Licensees and staff have read and			
understood their liquor licence. The			
current liquor licence is prominently			
displayed.			
All liquor service staff have			
completed and are trained in "RSA"			
within one month of commencing			
employment or are the holder of an			
approved Responsible Service of			
Alcohol Certificate. Complete the			
RSA Refresher program every			
three years			
The current red line plan of the			
premises is available for inspection			
by Victoria Police or Compliance			
Inspectors.			
Required signage is prominently			
displayed.			
Minors employed in the licensed			
premises are not involved in the			
sale or supply of alcohol and their			
employment is registered and available to Police or an authorised			
officer when requested.			
Patrons' identification is actively			
monitored at the door to ensure			
they are not underage.			
Promotions and advertising do not			
encourage the rapid consumption			
of alcohol. Adhere to the			
Responsible Liquor Advertising and			
Promotions guidelines			
Low and non-alcoholic drinks are			
readily available. Water is			
available free, in line with			
legislation.			
1.09.0.000			

 $\underline{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SC5q8BfgYqA}$

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXsaE-T6sCg

6. CROWD CONTROLLERS

The State Government has implemented *The Private Agents Act 2004* and set up the Private Agents Register within the structure of the Victoria Police. Both the Statutory and the Regulatory bodies are required to screen, control and monitor the behaviour and the bona fide's of all persons employed for this purpose. This has extended to requiring all such persons that are employed in the capacity of Crowd Controllers to be licensed and to abide by the operational requirements of the Act. (Licensees should be actively enforcing this in their premises).

The Private Agent's Act 2004 at Part 1 VA, contains legislation covering the keeping of Crowd Controllers Register, and the identification required to be worn by persons employed for that purpose.

This code of practice requires all licensees who employ crowd controllers to be thoroughly conversant with their obligations under the *Private Agents Act 2004*, and to ensure that all persons employed in that capacity are properly licensed and work in a professional manner.

Crowd Controllers must adopt effective conflict resolution and communication skills with the aim of reducing violence on or around licensed premises.

This proposal also stresses the proposition that licensees have a duty of care with respect to their patrons, and that this duty of care should be demonstrated through the professional application of crowd controllers and bar staff to the principles of 'Responsible Service' and the creation of a safe environment. It is suggested that venues, which provide entertainment, should employ adequate crowd controllers in order to ensure the provision of that safe environment (Recommended - two crowd controllers for the first 100 patrons and one extra for each additional 100 patrons or as per licence conditions) – ensure adherence to the liquor licence conditions.

Conferences and courses held to update crowd controllers on techniques and best practice should be encouraged by licensees, as well as the necessity to expose crowd controllers to the Responsible Service of Alcohol Training Sessions in order to highlight, better equip and assist the proactive aspects of their duties.

You may like to reference the new <u>Safety guidance</u>: <u>Patrons experiencing mental</u> health or drug/alcohol induced episodes

7. IMPROVE SAFETY AND SECURITY

Actively monitor the behaviour of patrons to detect early signs of intoxication or inappropriate behaviour

- Clearly display a house policy that details acceptable and unacceptable behaviour on premises, including non-acceptance of excessive consumption of alcohol or illicit drug use;
- Signage that educates patrons and explains the harms associated with drug misuse and abuse, including drink spiking, drink/drug driving and tobacco smoking, is displayed throughout the premises;
- o Discourage glass in toilets or on the dance floor, to reduce both

intentional and accidental injuries;

- Ensure internal and external security procedures are well maintained and functioning effectively;
- Encourage phased and orderly exit of patrons from premises when closing;

7.1 Maintain safety and security throughout the premises

- An Emergency Procedures Management Plan is maintained and available to Victoria Police. All staff are trained in emergency procedures and the use of emergency equipment;
- Conduct regular WorkSafe crowd control safety and security risk assessment of premises and immediate surrounds;
- Ensure entrances and exits are well lit and that immediate surrounds are safe and allow good visibility;
- Implement good surveillance systems, such as closed circuit television systems (CCTV), on premises;
- Ensure staff, including security staff, are clearly identifiable (for example, distinctive t-shirts, uniforms, name tags etc);
- Serve alcohol in containers selected to minimise possible harm to patrons.
 Where possible, glasses are made of shatter proof glass;
- Where possible stock liquor in unbreakable containers, such as cans or plastic bottles, instead of glass bottles;
- Fully cooperate with police and other Accord members on ways to improve public safety;
- Prevent criminal activity and disorderly conduct from occurring on premises.
 Notify police immediately if something illegal or suspicious does occur;
- When required, agree to implement additional or local strategies that relate to specific safety and security issues in and around the premises. These strategies will be negotiated as part of the Stawell Liquor Accord;
- Door/security or reception personnel will:
 - Wear clear ID at all times:
 - Not harass or intimidate passers-by or potential customers;
 - Record incidents of false ID and fraudulent use of ID into the incident book:
 - Monitor and discourage anti-social behaviour when patrons leave the premises, both near and immediately surrounding the premises, and call police if necessary;
 - Not let people back into premises who have caused a disturbance

 Immediately contact police and other premises to inform them of patrons that have been ejected and/or problem patrons in the vicinity;
 - Have public transport information available including taxis, trains, buses and car parking for patrons and location of the nearest public telephone;
 - Assist patrons in accessing safe transportation out of the area; and
 - Uphold any statutory requirements relating to security personnel and enter details of any incidents in the incident book.

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7.2 Maintain records of incidents and have regular communication with police

- Maintain a register of all types of incidents that occur in and around the premises that includes the time, date and nature of the incident and the response taken by staff and management
- Ensure all staff are familiar with the incident register book and are aware of how to use it when required;
- Notify the police of any special events likely to significantly increase the number of people in the area, in advance of the event;
- Ensure close liaison and open communication with all Stawell Liquor Accord Stakeholders.





7.3 Patron and premises safety

- Maintain a current list of emergency phone numbers and locate close to all key phones;
- Ensure that the maximum capacity numbers of patrons are adhered to at all times.
- Ensure that crowd controllers employed by the premises hold a current Private Security Licence;
- o Encourage a policy of no pass-outs after midnight;
- Train all staff to know help procedures and emergency numbers and how to use the incident register book;
- Encourage all staff members to undertake first aid courses and ensure one staff member with a first aid certificate is rostered on for each shift; and
- Ensure the telephone listing, for communication with security at other venues, is routinely updated.

7.4 SELF-AUDIT CHECKLIST FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

Self - Audit Checklist designed to assess the effectiveness of the licensee's commitment to safety and security.

Requirement	Yes	No	Action Required
All crowd controllers are trained			
and hold a current Private Security			
Licence.			
The crowd controllers register is			
properly maintained.			
A house policy has been developed			
and is displayed for patrons'			
information.			
An Emergency Procedure			
Management Plan is in place.			
Staff are informed and trained in			
emergency procedures.			
A Patron Management Plan is in			
place and all staff are trained in			
implementing the plan.			
Where applicable, video			
surveillance cameras are installed			
and placed in the appropriate			
locations.			
Surveillance footage is retained in			
accordance with licence			
requirements.			
Where possible, glasses are			
shatter glass and preference is			
given to stock liquor in unbreakable			
containers.			
Security and reception staff are			
aware of the closest taxi and public			
transport options.			
An employee is present who holds			
a current accredited first-aid			
certificate during operating hours.			
All relevant staff are aware of			
maximum numbers permitted on			
the premises. This includes relevant management and security			
personnel.			
Staff will monitor and discourage			
anti-social behaviour both in and			
near licensed premises.			
All staff understand the procedures			
of recording an incident in the			
incident book.			
moraoni book.			

8. COMMITMENT TO 'BEING GOOD NEIGHBOURS'

Improve the local amenity

- Assist patrons in accessing safe transportation out of the area. For example, door staff are able to provide information about access to the supervised taxi rank or train station and encourage patrons to use these quickly and quietly when departing;
- Minimise noise generated from the premises, wherever possible, keep doors closed;
- Educate patrons, including through signage, about the need to respect the local amenity and to arrive and depart the area in a quiet and orderly manner;
- Prevent the unlawful removal of liquor (other than packaged liquor where permitted) from licensed premises;
- Ensure door and security staff, are briefed on local environment issues, including potential traffic, noise or security problems;
- Ensure police are informed of regular closing hours and any variations, such as special events or new activities;
- Record all legitimate complaints in the incident book, respond to resident concerns and take all reasonable steps to ensure the premise is functioning as a 'good neighbour'; and
- o Communicate with neighbouring premises to discuss any common issues surrounding the premises.

Patron responsibility

- Display signage that clearly explains licensee and patron responsibility regarding the responsible service of alcohol https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/i-want/print-my-signage;
- Ensure staff are trained appropriately to advise patrons when they will no longer be served and will be asked to leave the premises;

8.1 Self-Audit Checklist designed to assess the effectiveness of the licensee

Requirement	Yes	No	Action Required
Queues are managed so as to be			
orderly and do not obstruct access			
to footpaths for other users.			
Management and security staff will			
work cooperatively with other			
venues and authorities to protect			
the amenity of other people.			
Staff and management will			
encourage people to leave the			
premises in a quiet and orderly			
manner.			
All staff are aware of the process of			
recording complaints in the incident			
book and know how to respond to			
them.			

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Licensees adopting this Code of Practice will be invited to sign a standardised Certificate of Commitment to adhere to the objectives of the code.

The Local Police Service Area Licensing Inspector will also endorse the certificate.

The licensee should ensure the Certificate of Commitment is displayed in a conspicuous place on the licensed premises in a manner that invites public attention.

Current members of the Stawell are;	
Gift Hotel	Brix Hotel
National Hotel	
Stawell Club	
Stawell Harness Racing Club	
Lillies & Lattes / Hammer & Gad	
Liquorland	
Richies IGA	
BWS Stawell	
Name of Premises:	Signed Licensee:
Date:	

10. LCV ACCORD BANNING GUIDELINES

The Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 provides that two or more licensees or permittees may enter into a liquor accord with the approval of the Chief Commissioner of Police and Liquor Control Victoria (LCV) for the purpose of minimising harm arising from the misuse or abuse of alcohol.

The terms of a liquor accord may make provision for licensees or permittees to cease to supply liquor or allow the consumption of liquor at their licensed premises or ban access to the premises by the public or individual members of the public.

Liquor accord bans should be implemented only for the purpose of minimising harm arising from the misuse and abuse of alcohol in relation to behaviour that has occurred in or around licensed premises. It is recommended that parties to an accord:

- ensure that a decision to ban is fair and reasonable, providing the banned person with an opportunity to respond to or apply for the reconsideration of the decision to ban them:
- ensure that a ban is non-discriminatory and made for a clear harm minimisation purpose;
- ensure that the privacy of personal information in relation to banned persons is maintained;
- ensure that a ban complies with the provisions of the <u>Charter of Human Rights and</u> Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic);
- do not ban persons for unreasonable periods of time (maximum 12 months) unless clearly justified by the circumstances; and
- appropriately notify the subject of a ban that a decision has been made to exclude them.

From 31 January 2022, the maximum period for which a person may be banned under a liquor accord is 12 months.

A licensee or permittee may consult Victoria Police to assist it with developing or enforcing a liquor accord.

Release of information for the purpose of enforcing an accord ban

The Commission or a police officer may disclose to a licensee or permittee who is a party to a liquor accord that contains a liquor accord ban information about a person who is the subject of a ban. It is a criminal offence for a person to use or disclose any information received from us or Victoria Police regarding banned persons except for the purposes of enforcing a liquor accord ban or other purposes required by law, with a maximum penalty of 60 penalty units. (Refer to Section 146DA of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*)

Information will only be disclosed by LCV in accordance with section 146D of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* where necessary for the purposes of the effective and efficient enforcement of the ban. When determining whether to disclose information, LCV may require a party to an accord to undertake not to keep the information private.

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11. VICTORIA POLICE

In addition to licensees adopting and implementing the principles and practices of the Stawell Liquor Accord, Victoria Police will use reasonable endeavours to:

- Maintain a visible Police presence in and around licensed premises
- Work with all stakeholders to implement the accord and improve community safety
- Work collaboratively with the Stawell Liquor Accord Licensees to develop solutions for identified problems/issues

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