



## Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation

### Liquor Licensing Code of Conduct Party bus operators

This Code of Conduct outlines the minimum standards of behaviour that the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation expects of party bus operators and patrons. Party bus operators may choose to include additional requirements that are appropriate to their own business.

This code applies only to party bus operators who hold a BYO permit. Party bus operators who hold a licence to supply alcohol on board must meet different requirements under the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*, and should adopt a Code of Conduct that complies with the conditions of their licence.

#### Responsibilities of patrons

Patrons boarding the bus:

- must produce proof of age documentation at the time of pick-up
- must not take alcohol off the bus during the course of the trip
- must not, at any stage while travelling on or disembarking from the bus:
  - behave in a manner likely to distract the driver of the bus
  - urinate in a public place—including a street, lane, alleyway or doorway
  - litter—including empty drink containers, food wrappings or cigarette butts
  - vandalise property, the bus, or another vehicle
  - make excessive noise
  - bring, consume or distribute illegal drugs
  - behave in a violent or aggressive manner
  - behave in an indecent or offensive manner
- must comply with a direction by a police officer or gambling and liquor inspector, including a direction to produce proof of age documentation.

#### Offences

Under the *Summary Offences Act 1966*, it is an offence to be drunk or drunk and disorderly in a public place.

In addition, the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* prohibits:

- underage drinking
- antisocial behaviour in and around licensed premises
- disturbance of the neighbourhood amenity
- refusing a direction by a police member or gambling and liquor inspector

Patrons who do not comply with the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* may be guilty of an offence and issued an infringement notice or be ordered by a court to pay a fine.

## Responsibilities of the party bus operator

The operator of the party bus will promote the responsible behaviour of patrons, including the responsible consumption of alcohol. To meet this requirement, the operator will comply with the following:

- If visiting licensed premises during the trip, notify the owners beforehand of the date, approximate time and number of patrons who will be attending.
- Avoid entering into any agreements with licensed venues that encourage irresponsible consumption of alcohol.
- Display the BYO permit in a prominent place on the bus.
- Display the following signs, approved by the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation, in a prominent place on the bus:
  - Unruly Behaviour
  - Fines for Supplying Alcohol to Minors.
- Provide the hirer with a copy of the Code of Conduct at the time of booking and make the code available on the website.
- Keep a copy of the Code of Conduct on the bus, and make a verbal announcement about patron responsibilities and prohibited behaviours at the commencement of the trip.
- Check each patron's proof of age documentation and refuse entry to minors unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, spouse or responsible adult.
- If stopping at one or more destinations during the trip, remove any alcohol still remaining at the first venue stop, place it in the storage area under the bus, and return it to patrons at the end of the trip.
- If stopping at licensed premises during the trip, inform staff members or crowd controllers about any patrons who appear to be intoxicated.
- Monitor the amount of alcohol consumed and attend to any patron who appears to be intoxicated by:
  - asking the patron to remain on the bus with a 'buddy' to sober up
  - arranging a taxi for the patron, if practicable.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that patrons do not cause a public nuisance—for example: littering, making excessive noise, congregating in a public place, or behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that pick-up and drop-off points provide easy access to public toilets and public transport (e.g. train, tram, bus or taxi).
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that patrons do not take alcohol off the bus during the trip.
- Familiarise yourself with the local laws operating in the areas in which you will be travelling.
- Allow a police officer or gambling and liquor inspector on board to carry out their functions under the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*.

## Offences

The *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* prohibits behaviour including:

- allowing patrons to bring or consume alcohol on the bus in a designated area between 8pm and 5am without a BYO permit
- permitting underage drinking
- refusing a direction by a police officer or gambling and liquor inspector.

A party bus operator who does not comply with the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* may be charged or issued with an infringement notice.

This publication avoids the use of legal language. Information about the law may have been summarised or expressed in general statements. This information should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional legal advice or reference to the actual legislation. Authorised by the Victorian Government.