



Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation

Liquor Accord Frequently Asked Questions

Developing a banning policy between multiple liquor forums

A liquor forum comprises of liquor and gambling industry representatives who, together with Victorian Police and local government representatives, find strategies for improving the operation of licensed premises and reducing alcohol-related harm in a specific area. Liquor forums may be formalised with a liquor accord - a written document that sets out the aims, strategies, objectives and actions of the forum.

The following frequently asked questions provide information on how multiple liquor forums could ban patrons under a joint banning policy.

1. What is the legislative basis for the banning of patrons under liquor accords?

[Part 8, Division 6](#) of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* enables liquor forum members to establish processes to ban members of the public. A banning policy is not mandatory, but should a liquor forum wish to do so, it must detail the banning process in the written accord document and include a patron's right to review.

2. Can liquor forums ban patrons under multiple accords?

Yes. However, liquor forums should first establish a common banning policy. In order to do this, forums must choose one of the following options:

- a)** multiple liquor forums can merge and establish one forum with a common accord. For example, liquor forums of A, B and C can merge and become the liquor forum of D covering all three forums with a common accord. This common accord can include a banning policy which will be enforced by all.
- b)** individual liquor forums can remain separate, but create a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning the banning policy. For example, forums A, B and C remain individual liquor forums but agree to draft a common banning policy that will be enforced by all forums. Each liquor forum

will need to replace their existing banning policy with the agreed common banning policy. Banning policies should be in accordance with the VCGLR's liquor forum and accord guidelines.

3. Will the process of banning patrons change under a multiple accord banning policy?

Different liquor forums may deal with the banning process differently. However, if forums decide to either merge or enter into an MOU, they must agree on the content of the banning policy including banning durations.

Notification of a ban must be issued in writing to the patron and must advise:

- a)** the details of the ban including a list of venues where the ban is enforced and the ban period (start and end date);
- b)** that the ban will be enforced by all applicable liquor forums for the agreed period; and
- c)** that the individual has the right to request a review of the ban.

4. Where can I find more information?

You can find more information on liquor forums and accords on the [VCGLR's website](#).

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.