

## Media Release

20 November, 2013

### Cutting red tape for live music venues

The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation has cut red tape and streamlined the requirements that liquor licensees must meet when holding live music events for young people.

VCGLR Chairman Bruce Thompson said that these are common sense and practical reforms which come after much consultation with stakeholders and community - including the Victorian Government, Victoria Police, local government, licensees and the music industry.

“The research and consultation we undertook leading up to these reforms has shown these types of events are generally very well run and low risk,” Mr Thompson said.

“Live music is an important part of Victoria’s cultural identity and we are committed to reducing red tape and the continuous improvement of our operations to support this.”

The VCGLR’s new measures complement the Government’s announcement this week that it will legislate to remove the requirement for licensees to apply to the VCGLR for approval to host underage and mixed aged live music events.

VCGLR CEO Jane Brockington said the reforms would provide an immediate solution to support live music in Victoria, while the legislative reforms are being developed.

“It’s an industry that provides a direct economic contribution of \$300 million to the Victorian economy and employs the equivalent of around 15,000 full time jobs,” Ms Brockington said. (Deloitte Access Economics study, commissioned by Arts Victoria undertaken in 2010-11)

“Attendance at Victorian live music venues is estimated at around 5.4 million patrons a year, and we hope this reform will play its part in sustaining that vibrant and healthy activity.”

Ms Brockington said the reforms were prompted after Victoria’s live music industry raised concerns with the VCGLR at the Victorian Government’s Live Music Roundtable, indicating that the previous approach made it difficult for events to be organised.

The Live Music Roundtable was established by the Victorian Government to support a vibrant, successful and responsible live music industry, and promote best practice for safe and well-managed music venues in Victoria.

#### THE REFORMS AT A GLANCE:

Licensees can apply to the VCGLR for the temporary approval of unaccompanied people under the age of 18 on licensed premises under section 120 of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*.

This allows young people to attend events on licensed premises without needing to be accompanied by a parent, spouse, legal guardian or responsible adult.

As a result of the VCGLR's participation in the Victorian Government's Live Music Roundtable, and consultation with the industry and the general public, the VCGLR has changed its policies and process for underage and youth events on licensed premises.

Changes the VCGLR has introduced are as follows:

- a new fast-track application for licensees with a good track record wishing to host low-risk underage events
- changes to standard conditions for underage events
- a new category of alcohol-free youth events which are for patrons aged from 12-25 years.

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**Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation**

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