

## Media Release

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### Preventing liquor breaches pays off

Prevention of licensees breaking the liquor laws before things get out of hand is encouraging good business practises, according to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR).

Under the demerit points system licensees are showing improved compliance with liquor laws and becoming more responsible.

“Demerit points are allocated to licences that have had a non-compliance incident - such as minors or drunken and disorderly patrons on the premises, and the service of alcohol to minors or intoxicated people on licensed premises,” VCGLR Director of Compliance Karen Lees said.

“We are always aiming to prevent breaches before they get out of hand.

“In doing this, first we focus our efforts on education to ensure licensees are doing the right thing. The focus is on prevention not penalties.”

Venues which incur demerit points will also fall in the ‘star rating system’ and ultimately may have to pay more for a liquor licence when it is renewed.

“We’re hitting them where it hurts,” Ms Lees said.

The demerit points system commenced on 20 February 2012. Across Victoria, there are more than 50 licences with demerit points. In Melbourne’s CBD, venues which have incurred demerit points include Wonderland Karaoke, All Nations Backpacker Bar, Etihad Stadium and Liquor Delight.

Ms Lees said Melbourne CBD venues were a focus for the VCGLR, Victoria Police and the Environment Protection Authority Victoria working together to inspect venues again and again to ensure compliance.

Ms Lees said under the intelligence-led risk management framework senior inspectors are case managers for venues that have two or more demerit points.

“They deal with the venue personally, aiming to improve their performance with a range of preventative measures. They will also work collaboratively with the local police to provide awareness of this program and identify issues that have led them to receiving the demerit points in the first place,” she said.

“While the risk management framework has a high focus on prevention, it will not replace more assertive enforcement action as required.”

For further information please visit [www.vcglr.vic.gov.au](http://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au)

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**Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation**

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