

Media Release

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Prosecution of unlicensed venue in Melbourne's eastern suburbs

Quotes attributable to Adam Ockwell, Director Compliance

The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) has successfully prosecuted a Croydon cocktail bar for selling liquor without a liquor licence.

Thanks to a tip off from the community via its online complaints process, VCGLR inspectors observed the unlawful sale of liquor shortly after receiving the complaint and immediately took action.

VCGLR inspectors attended the venue, Envy Cocktail Lounge, in mid-2018 to discover that the company and its director did not hold a liquor licence. Following the inspection, evidence gathered by the VCGLR indicated that the premises had been operating unlicensed for a period of time.

Once discovered, the VCGLR issued charges against the company (Envy Cocktails Pty Ltd) relating to the unlicensed selling of liquor (contrary to section 107 (1) of the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 (LCR Act)) and also charged the Director of the company personally of the same offence.

A hearing of the matter by the Ringwood Magistrates' Court resulted in Envy Cocktails Pty Ltd being convicted of both the unlicensed sale and offer of liquor and ordered it to pay a fine of \$2,500.00, the VCGLR's costs of \$100.00 and statutory costs of \$127.40. The Magistrate also ordered that the director of Envy Cocktails Pty Ltd be convicted of the offence of unlicensed selling of liquor and ordered he pay a fine of \$3,500.00, the VCGLR's costs of \$100.00 and statutory costs of \$84.40.

The total ordered penalties are one of the highest imposed by the Magistrates' Court for an offence under the LCR Act and demonstrates the important need for businesses selling liquor to ensure they hold a valid liquor licence.

With over 11,750 liquor inspections undertaken in 2018-19, the VCGLR takes matters of non-compliance seriously and will take appropriate enforcement action in such cases. The VCGLR is committed to regulating Victoria's gambling and liquor industries to ensure their integrity and to minimise harm so that Victorians and visitors can enjoy safe and responsible gambling and liquor environments.

Background information

The Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 (LCR Act) regulates the supply and consumption of liquor in Victoria. Businesses are not only required to hold the appropriate licence relevant to the type of business but also ensure that the licence is held by them and transferred to them.

In the case of Envy Cocktail Lounge, a restaurant and cafe licence was in force at the premises, but was held by Newmarket Café Pty Ltd - a deregistered company. While Envy Cocktails had the right to occupy the premises under a formal lease agreement, neither the company, nor its Director, held a liquor licence at the time.

The VCGLR regulates businesses focusing on the people, premises, products and promotions involved in supplying gambling and liquor. Anyone wishing to make a complaint alleging a breach of

one of the Acts we administer (including the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998, Gambling Regulation Act 2003 and the Casino Control Act 1991) can do so via our website and each complaint will be assessed. To lodge a complaint or for more information about complaints and our complaint process, see: [Complaints](#)

Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation

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