



AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

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RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL – AHA STATEMENT

Statement from the AHA's National Corporate Affairs Manager, Hamish Arthur:

"The hotel industry is disappointed with public comments by some alcohol researchers that yesterday's High Court judgment, which related to a licensed premises in Tasmania, will diminish hoteliers' commitment to the responsible service of alcohol (RSA) and the development of a safe drinking culture in Australia.

"The AHA is committed to work with the Federal and State Governments to introduce a nationally consistent approach to RSA and this will not change because of the court's decision.

"The last thing hotels want is to provide the small minority of patrons who are responsible for anti-social behaviour in licensed premises to think they have a licence to cause trouble.

"The comments also display little or no regard to the fact that stringent liquor licensing legislation which is in place in each Australian State and Territory is unlikely to change as a result of the High Court decision.

"Irresponsible consumption of alcohol – including binge drinking – is a complex problem.

"It will not be solved unless all stakeholders work together.

"The AHA will continue to encourage hotel patrons to monitor their behaviour at all times when they are consuming alcohol because drunks in pubs are bad for business."

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The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) is the pre-eminent tourism and hospitality industry organisation in Australia. It has around 5000 members operating general and accommodation hotels. It has a national office and branches in each State and Territory. It also has a discrete branch to represent the interests of its accommodation members that covers four and five-star properties.