

Lock out not right

By MICK ROBERTS

A FORMER Bankstown licensing cop says locking patrons out of pubs and clubs at 1am will not solve the booze-fuelled violence gripping Sydney.

Now the security and compliance manager for the Laundy Hotel Group, Steve Grove-Jones said while lockouts can be beneficial in some areas, they would not necessarily solve the issue.

"Lockouts are really not the entire answer to everything," Mr Grove-Jones said.

"It's what we call in the industry the 'invisible hand' that's the worry these days."

Mr Grove-Jones, whose pub security management includes hotels at Bass Hill, Yagoona and Chester Hill, said party drugs are allowing young people to drink large amounts of alcohol before the combined effects often lead to violence.

Emergency service workers want tough new restrictions on the sale of alcohol in pubs and clubs to reduce alcohol related violence.

The Police Association, Australia

lian Medical Association, Nurses Association and the Health Service Union want 1am lockouts and restrictions on the sale of shots, to prevent a growing incidence of frontline staff being attacked and abused.

Police Association vice-president Scott Weber says when similar curbs were imposed on licensed premises in Newcastle in March 2008, night-time assaults fell 29 per cent.

However, the club industry is asking authorities to exempt its safety records and to exempt them from lock-outs and bans on shots and cocktails after 10pm.

Clubs NSW CEO David Costello says police records prove clubs have not contributed to the increase in alcohol related assaults over the past decade.

Bankstown Sports Clubs supports calls for the exemption.

"While people are able to access responsible licensed premises like Bankstown Sports club, alcohol service and consumption can be managed, unlike alcohol that is consumed in local parks or at home," a spokesperson said.



Bankstown Liquor Accord members Bruce Clugston, Georgia Vris, Bankstown licensing coordinator senior constable Craig Sands and Michael Behan tape up a box of beer at Bankstown Sports bottle shop.

Accord serves up warning

TAKEAWAY alcohol purchases will feature bright yellow packing tape sporting responsible drinking messages.

The Bankstown Liquor Accord has produced the tape delivering responsible drinking messages and the fines associated with supplying alcohol to under 18 year olds.

Around 30,000 metres of tape were printed for the launch early last month. The messages, which will be taped across boxes of takeaway alcohol purchases, will educate consumers of their responsibilities under the liquor laws.

the liquor partnership to minimise the harm associated with alcohol consumption by improving safety in local facilities, and reducing alcohol related violence and antisocial behaviour.

Former Bankstown licensing cop and now the security and compliance manager for the Laundy Hotel Group, Steve Grove-Jones said the accord kept local licensees "up to speed" on changes to legislation within the industry.

"Importantly, it builds a rapport with local licensing police, who can sometimes be wrongly portrayed as the bad guys," Mr Grove-Jones said.

Bankstown Accord chairperson Bruce Clugston said he is looking for a whole community approach to responsible sale of alcohol.

"As licensees we are committed to the responsible sale of alcohol," he said.

"We ask the same commitment from our community to ensure that once alcohol is purchased, that it is consumed responsibly and not supplied to anyone under 18 years of age. The packing tape will help spread this important message."

The Accord is a collection of local licensees who have voluntarily joined