



# SALE OF LIQUOR AMMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

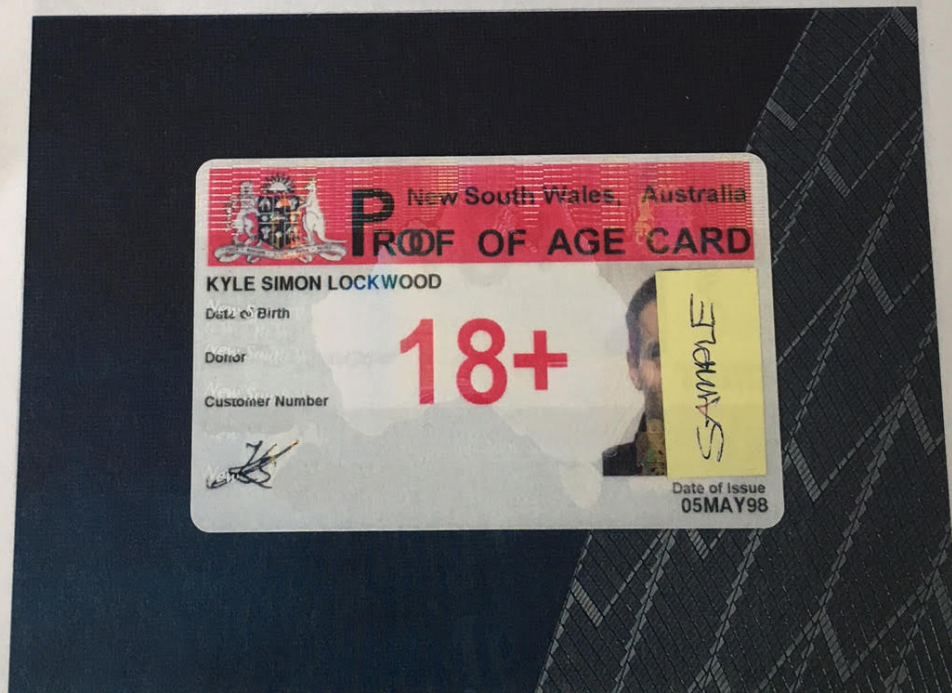
**9 March 1999**

**Submission to The Justice and Law Reform Select Committee**

The present verification situation:

New South Wales 18+ Card

New South Wales 18+ Card



*Laser copied example of the Card showing a superimposed holographic map of Australia, a security aspect that features on both the Drivers Licence and the NSW Proof of age card .*

## **Lower the legal drinking age to 18 without exception**

I would like to make formal submission to the Sale of Liquor Amendment Bill (No.2). Before reading the *Liquor Review, Report of the Advisory Committees* analysis on liquor review I was sceptical about the prospect of lowering the legal drinking age to 18. But the findings of this report clearly outline the social attitudes and implications since the last amendment in 1990, and with this in mind I think we are well due for this change.

I agree with the liquor advisory committees suggestion that the age should be lowered to 18 with no exceptions (apart from the restricted establishments as outlined in the report). However, there is an area that I feel needs addressing, the area of identification and enforcement.

### **The present identification situation:**

I enclose a copy of a letter I wrote to the editor of Wellingtons Evening Post, in June last year. The letter gives a background into my personal reasons for lodging this submission. On my return from Australia, my friends and I underwent the 'rough treatment' by a few of Wellingtons bars and clubs. I am concerned that legally entitled people are not being allowed access to bars R18 concerts, movies etc, because identification such as our present drivers licences and student IDs are not considered adequate.

From experience it appears that the only identification considered adequate is a Passport, and at \$80.00 a somewhat expensive and time consuming document to replace if lost or stolen.

### **The New South Wales (NSW) Proof of Age Card:**

I feel that there should be a nationally recognised ID card issued by a government authority. The state of New South Wales has an age identification card called the *Proof of Age Card*. An excellent card issued by the local drivers licensing authority, the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA). The Proof Of Age Card is not compulsory, but it is necessary for gaining entry into a bar, and many people over the age of 18 (the legal drinking age in NSW) who do not have a photo drivers licence are encouraged to get one, as student IDs are often not accepted as reliable forms of ID.

### **Features of the NSW Proof of Age Card:**

- Card shows the bearers photo, date of birth, and whether the person gives their consent to be a donor after the event of their death.
- Issued free of charge to those over 18 without a photo drivers licence.
- Issued on the spot at the RTA, provided applicant has all relevant documentation in support of their application.
- Not compulsory, but necessary for gaining access to a bar.
- Credit card sized, for the convenience of portability.
- Security features include a superimposed holographic map of Australia, with the state government coat of arms in each corner. This feature can be seen even in relatively dim light. This feature is also very hard to duplicate by would-be forgers using present technology.
- Card printed with the same machinery as the NSW photo drivers licence.

## **Enforcement of the Sale of Liquor Act after the issue of photo drivers licence & 'proof of age' cards in New Zealand.**

I feel that New Zealand should, in keeping with international initiatives, issue a proof of age type card to those who are entitled to one. I acknowledge that the amount of people applying for the card would be small, but for someone over 18 who isn't attending a tertiary institution, or does not have a drivers licence, such a card would be handy to them if they are asked often to produce age ID. Enforcement of the Sale of Liquor Act for bar staff, the police and local government inspectors would be made easier too, a bearer would be able to quickly identify him/herself if requested from a competent authority

The introduction of the photo drivers licence would give the Land Transport Authority the machinery to issue such a card, it could be issued as a sideline to the photo drivers licence. Printing a proof of age card would only require a small change in graphic software, and a proof of age card could be printed on the same machine as one that produces photo drivers licences.

### **Privacy issues:**

I support the privacy Commissioners views on the issue of a compulsory national identity card, such an initiative is indeed not applicable to social policy. I support the notion of a **voluntary** photo identity card.

### **Summary of considerations:**

- I recommend the example of the NSW RTA Proof Of Age Card be examined in more detail by the relevant authorities.
- I consider it the responsibility of a New Zealand Government authority to issue a proof of age card. Such a card should have security features similar to that of the NSW version.
- The issue of such a card should not be left to a local authority or independent association.
- Current legislation is confusing. The introduction of the photo drivers licence and a proof of age type card will greatly improve the enforcement of not just the Sale of Liquor Act, but many other related Acts, Regulations and/or Local Government Bylaws.

This amended submission replaces my previous submission dated 9 September 1998, I do intend to appear before the committee.

10 March 1999



Kyle Lockwood