



## Leigh Barrett and Associates Venue e-Newsletter June 2017

### General

#### \*\* Check Out The New Website

LBA is keen to use technology to make things easier for our venue partners and the hospitality industry more generally. Having important information in *real time* is critical in keeping your venue compliant and reduces the chance of regulatory “nasty surprises”.

LBA is about protecting venues from breaches and litigation at, what we have found, is a fraction of the cost of engaging high-powered law firms to complete forms and provide advice.

LBA has just launched a new website [www.leighbarrett.com.au](http://www.leighbarrett.com.au) that will provide very user-friendly general information to the hospitality industry pertaining to compliance as well as a venue-partner log-in area for detailed information, monthly newsletter library by topic, toolbox resources and an online training portal. Bear in mind that the information will be provided by recognized leaders in the field of hospitality compliance.

***Please go online to check out the new website and provide feedback about other useful elements that could be included. Naturally, full access to the resources will be for ongoing venue partners and/or subscribers.***

#### \*\* Join LBA on Linked-in and Facebook

In conjunction with the launch of the new website LBA is launching a new Linked-in membership designed for Club Committees and General Managers and Proprietors and General Managers of Hotels, and a new Facebook membership for hospitality staff.

The aim of these memberships is to ensure that the hospitality industry receives real-time advice about upcoming issues and referral to the website as well as congratulatory remarks about venue partners that are *heading the field*.

***These memberships will be online from 15 July 2017. Look for an invite in your Inbox.***

## Board/Committee Governance Issues

### \*\* Is Your Board Unworkable?

Typically, a Club Board or Committee comprises between 5 and 8 members, including the executive (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary). LBA has found some committees numbering up to 15 members! This may seem inclusive and consultative, but it actually causes vital policy decisions ***not*** to be made!

The well-known definition of a camel is “*a horse designed by a committee.*”

***If your Board/Committee would like a face-to-face tailored session on Decision-Making and Governance, email [leigh@leighbarrett.com.au](mailto:leigh@leighbarrett.com.au)***

### \*\* Does Your Club Have Gaming and Liquor Nominees

When LBA is engaged by Clubs, we commonly find that they do not have (especially) liquor nominees. It is **essential** that Clubs have listed nominees to limit the potential liability of the Club.

For example, if a Club has 8 Committee members and breaches the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*, the Club can receive a penalty for each member of the Committee. However, if an individual is named as Nominee, then the Club only is liable for one penalty.

***LBA specializes in ensuring that the complex Nominee forms are completed and lodged correctly.***

## Gambling Issues

### \*\* RG Code Evaluation 2017

This is a final reminder that all gaming venues must submit annual Responsible Gambling Code of Conduct evaluation information to their Code administrator.

LBA has required that venue partners adopting the LBA Code return their responses by 15 June 2017. However, a number of venue responses are still to be received.

The LBA RG Code has been recognised by many Gambler’s Help services as being *best practice* and non-LBA venues may consider adopting the LBA Code. If you would like more information about this email [margaret@leighbarrett.com.au](mailto:margaret@leighbarrett.com.au) ***As timelines are tight to report to the VCGLR, we ask that they be returned promptly to P O Box 7064, Point Cook, 3030***

### \*\* Reserving of Gaming Machines

Venue partners are reminded that there is no mention in legislation or regulation about the reserving of gaming machines. That is why is imperative that **all** gaming machine reservation signs *clearly* state the conditions of EGM reservation.

*For advice about the appropriate wording for such signage email [leigh@leighbarrett.com.au](mailto:leigh@leighbarrett.com.au)*

## **Food Safety Issues**

LBA welcomes Ann Humphrey as our imminent new Food Safety auditor and advisor. Ann has more than 20 years in the Food Safety Industry and will be responsible for the roll-out and auditing of the LBA Food Safety Program.

The LBA Program has been recognized as being superior to the major registered programs and her audits will ensure ongoing compliance.

*For more information email Ann at [ann@leighbarrett.com.au](mailto:ann@leighbarrett.com.au) from the second week of July.*

### **\*\* New Smoking Bans from 1 August 2017 – What is Food**

As of 1 August this year smoking will be banned from out-door eating and drinking areas. The provisions of the ban are quite complex and there are many conditions and options. LBA received a query from a venue partner as to what constitutes “food” for the purposes of the ban. Rather than try to summarize all of the provisions we have decided to attach the official guide.

*LBA recommends that venue partners are aware of their obligations from 1 August as it is likely that strong enforcement measures will be in place.*

## **AML/CTF Issues**

### **\*\* Half-yearly Reports Due**

Every June and December LBA reminds venue partners that this is a good time for your AML/CTF Compliance Officer to submit the half-yearly AML/CTF report to your Board, Committee or Sole Director.

*If you require assistance in the completion of your Half-yearly report, email [leigh@leighbarrett.com.au](mailto:leigh@leighbarrett.com.au)*

### **\*\* Likely Changes to AML/CTF Rules**

Following a recent review of the *Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing Act 2006* LBA believes that significant changes will be made to the AML/CTF Rules and the obligations of organizations that provide designated services.

*LBA will work with our venue partners to ensure ongoing compliance with the Act and Rules*

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