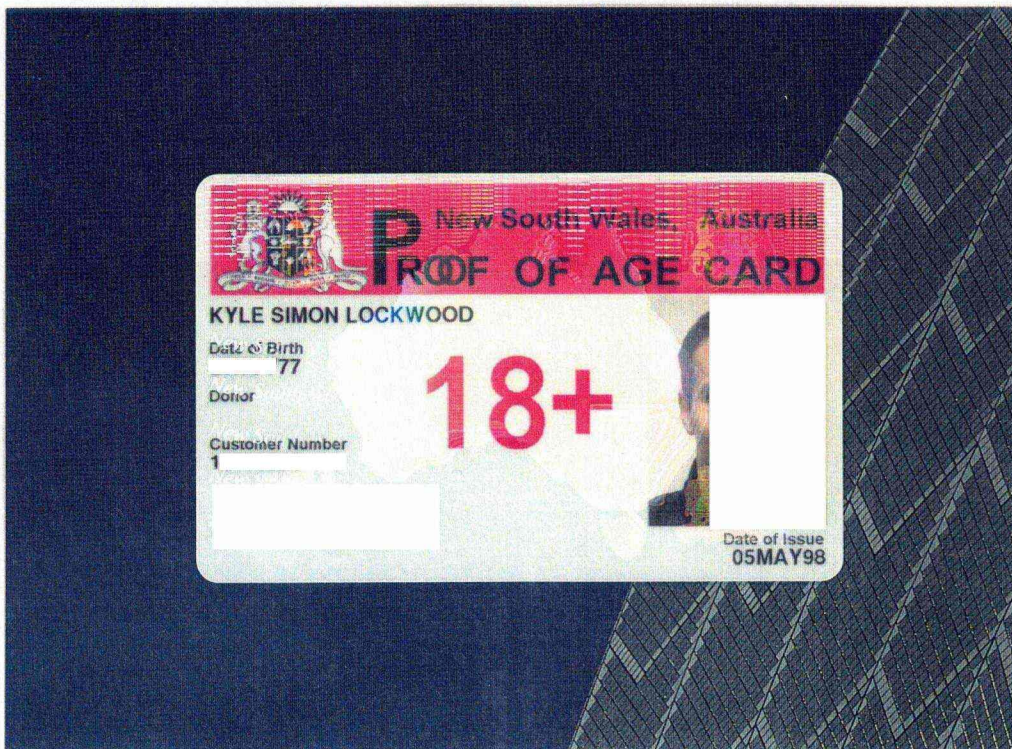


SALE OF LIQUOR AMMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

9 March 1999

Submission to The Justice and Law Reform Select Committee

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 form 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

Letters to the editor

Photo ID needed to change pubs' attitudes

AFTER returning from a long stay in Australia, I was taken aback by the absurdity of the Wellington pub scene.

I am a 20-year-old Wellington City Council customer service worker, who understands full well that 20 is the legal drinking age.

Even with a New South Wales proof-of-age card, my patience was constantly tested.

One particular bar asked me to produce three forms of ID.

When I returned to another bar I was told "this isn't an in-and-out bar", and my 21-year-old friend was also refused access because their establishment did not "accept student ID cards".

One place refused entry because I was "an Australian".

Throughout Australia I experienced no such difficulties.

A proof-of-age photo ID card or a photo driver's licence is a perfectly acceptable form of ID. You can come and go as you please, and Kiwis are welcomed and respected.

If insulting potential customers is the backward attitude of the nightclub establishments in New Zealand's "Capital" city, the place in which I was born, raised and educated, then I am afraid you all have a lot to learn.

It is high time New Zealand issued Australian-style photo licences and proof-of-age cards.

KYLE LOCKWOOD

Melrose

Don't bleat about

While loyalty to a friend is an admirable attribute and one to be praised, he should appreciate that such long-standing and close friendships can affect one's objectivity.

In fact, so much so, that the tone of his letter smacks of shooting the messenger as a preferred alternative to accepting the message.

Graham says that it was implicit in my letter that "every administrative error should be treated as a crime".

Bunkum. Criminality is all about intent, and where someone has the intention to steal or defraud then such matters should be dealt with the criminal court.

It is suggested that the some civilian employers, should lay criminal charges against Graham knows that the police a "civilian employer" in the and those working within the isation understand and accept high standards that go with the police officer.

Graham posed the question, "is this a matter of criminal behaviour?" Well, all I can say is that the prosecution and the judge thought so. He also claims that police managers should exercise more judgment where the values are small.

Well, there is no grading system for honesty. If a crime has been committed it would be utterly wrong to deal with the case internally behind closed doors.

I say that the managers did exercise good judgment and there was

nothing timid in taking that course as he suggests.

He suggests that I am aware of domestic circumstances which prevented the former superintendent mounting an effective defence. Well, I don't, and if that is the case I have no doubt that his counsel would have given the right advice.

In my letter I did not judge Alec Waugh. I was merely commenting on his brother's views of events. It has been a tragic affair for the nation, families and sides.

The Evening Post
Established 1865
(Incorporating the Sports Post)

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Caution

The Cabinet has decided to press ahead with plans to exempt the Crown from New Zealand's human rights legislation. This plan is a direct attack upon the constitution of New Zealand.

The Crown (Government) fails to accept a fundamental principle of the rule of law. That is natural justice, freedom and equality before the law. In part, it was these principles that caused the Magna Carta to be sealed 783 years ago and which still remain in force as part of the law of New Zealand.

The "law of the land" in Magna Carta was judicially construed to mean that no power was delegated by the people to the legislature to invade the great natural rights of the individual.

This latest move by the Government is a serious threat to New Zealanders' civil liberties. It must be most strongly opposed.

The proposed action by the Government could put the State above the rights and obligation of the individual citizen.

This threatens one of the key safeguards of our democratic system which allows abuses by the State in its care and management function to be legally challenged by the citizen. We are concerned that this will exempt providers of Government services from the anti-discrimination provisions of the Human Rights Act; for example, denying social welfare clients the right to seek legal redress for discriminatory behaviour.

The proposed changes to legislation are a serious threat to civil liberties and deserve wide public debate.

It is the role of the Federation of Workers Educational Associations, universities and other providers of adult and community education to debate this issue; and a challenge for the individual to play their part in such a challenge.

RODNEY MURPHY
President, Wellington Workers Educational Association

Ingham twins

THERE they go again. Perhaps the notorious Ingham twins should be dubbed the "Bring 'em-ins" by police.

MICHAEL BUCK
Newtown

Mehrtens is a star

IT'S what's behind the cut. We salute Andrew Mehrtens as an outstanding rugby player, with an upturned porridge bowl haircut and all (Letters, May 12!).

His intelligence, team spirit, determination and passion for the game shine through for all to see.

That's what youngsters in this country need to emulate in a star player.

TERESA NOBLE-CAMPBELL
Paekakariki

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS

Jean and Mac McLemore, Portland, Oregon; John Hampton, Wellington CND; T Bennett, Wadestown; Mike Jarvis, Newlands; Rose Hudson, Titahi Bay; Brian Hunt, Melrose; Ian Malcolm, Strathmore; R S Kennedy, Paraparaumu (2) - points noted.