



MEDIA RELEASE

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LOCAL CLUB PRESIDENT SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING ABOUT CHANGES TO THE LIQUOR LAWS THAT PROTECT GRANDPARENTS FROM PROSECUTION AND BRING LEGISLATION IN LINE WITH REALITY

The Liquor Control Reform Act was amended last year. One major change, which was the result of years of lobbying by ClubsVIC, has been dubbed the “Brendan Bell” provisions, and addresses what was known as the “grandparents anomaly”.

Brendan Bell is the President of the Red Cliffs Club. Brendan and wife Margret are the proud grandparents of 12 grandchildren.

Until the law was changed Brendan and Margret could only legally have their grandchildren with them at the Club while the children were eating. The kids had to leave as soon as they had finished eating. They couldn't legally drop in for a raspberry while Grandad attended to club business, or have a dance on festive nights or have a game of pool with Grandad. The only time that the kids could be on the licensed premises when they were not eating a meal was when they were in the company of their parents. (not grandparents, not aunties, not uncles, not best-friends-parents).

Brendan thought that this law simply flew in the face of the reality of club life in Australia. Being propped up at the bar with a raspberry by Grandad after the footy match is a cherished memory of many an Aussie Footy fan. It was news to Brendan when he became the Sunraysia Representative on the ClubsVIC council, that this Australian tradition was in fact against the law. He was quite dismayed to learn that doting grandparents were in fact criminals. The kids who slid around the dance floor at the presentation night were in fact in breach of the law.

So he set about letting every politician with whom he came into contact know what he thought. And after years of quiet remonstrance we now have the “Brendan Bell provisions” in the amended Liquor Control Reform Act. Children can now attend at licensed premises at any time with any “responsible adult” – not necessarily the child's parent.

Now doting grandparents, indulgent aunts, best-friends' parents are indebted to Brendan – they no longer run the risk of being apprehended if they have children other than their own with them at a club or pub.

ClubsVIC is the umbrella organisation for the not-for-profit licensed community clubs in Victoria. Brendan Bell is the President of the Red Cliffs Club and the Sunraysia representative on the ClubsVIC governing body, the ClubsVIC Council. For further comment contact Brendan Bell on 0418 144 598 or Margaret Kearney, Executive Director, ClubsVIC on 03 9349 2909 or 0409 879 277.

ENDS

ClubsVIC... supporting Victoria's community clubs