



Bed and Breakfast, Farmstay and Accommodation Australia Ltd

ABN 96 132 106 293

22 January, 2010

INCREASE IN THE RENEWAL FEE FOR A LIMITED LICENCE TO SERVICE ALCOHOL IN VICTORIA

BACKGROUND:

When renewal invoices were sent out to limited licence holders late in 2009 they were advised that the renewal fee had risen from \$97 to \$397. In response to many objections to this increase, the Liquor Licensing Authority (Department of Justice) introduced a form for business owners to apply for hardship status which, if approved, could result in a reduction or the waiving of the fee. An application for hardship necessitated submitting accounts for the previous two years, a forecast for the current year and validated by a statement from an Accountant. The deadline to apply was end December 2009. See the [Department of Justice](#) website for further information about applying for a limited licence.

In many cases, BBFAA members who held this type of licence in order to be able to offer a complimentary sherry, wine or port to their guests considered that the value of the liquor they served did not warrant the cost of the licence. Some have decided not to renew which means they can no longer offer this hospitality.

BBFAA ACTION:

In December 2009 BBFAA Chairperson, Geoffrey Chapman met with officials from the Liquor Licensing Department and also with Tourism Victoria. (*See the Pillowtalk news bulletin of 14 December for the outcome of those meetings*).

Mr Chapman has written to Victoria's Minister for Tourism and the Minister for Consumer Affairs raising BBFAA's concerns, specifically detailing the impact that such an increase has on the financial viability of our member businesses. He also expressed the likely impact on hospitality which is the very essence of our industry, and BBFAA's wish for a viable solution to this issue.

To assist us in this matter BBFAA members have been requested to:

1. Write about their concerns to the Minister for Tourism and the Minister for Consumer Affairs (*addresses below*) with a copy to their local MP.
2. And, if they held a Liquor Licence, to respond to a number of questions regarding their businesses.

The Hon. Tim Holding MLA
Minister for Tourism
Level 26
121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne 3000

Tony Robinson MLA
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Level 5
1 MacArthur Street
East Melbourne 3002

INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM MEMBERS

1. Have you renewed your Liquor Licence for the current year?
2. Have you applied for a hardship waiver? If so, what has been the outcome?

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3. Has your business been visited by Liquor Licensing officials in connection with your compliance with the regulations? If so, when was that and what was the outcome?

4. Have you written to the Minister for Tourism and/or the Minister for Consumer Affairs regarding this matter?

BBFAA will treat all information received as confidential.

Non members are invited to contribute information if they wish by submitting answers to the above questions by email to the BBFAA Office.