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## **Doctors welcome decision to retain strongest elements of licensing laws reform**

Doctors have welcomed the Queensland Government's decision to retain the strongest elements of its licensing law reform.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Zappala said that a mandatory ID scanning system in venues would make a big difference.

"A linked system of electronic ID scanners will ensure that intoxicated patrons who have been refused service in one venue cannot simply walk into another," Dr Zappala said.

"Equally important will be ensuring that all bottle shops – not just newly opened ones – close at 10pm to help stop alcohol-fuelled violence moving from the streets into homes."

Dr Zappala said he understood the concerns of business owners but drastic action was needed to curb the frightening rise in alcohol-related assaults.

"We saw in Newcastle and Sydney that changing the culture of binge drinking and associated violence doesn't happen overnight," he said.

"Overall, doctors have been extremely supportive of the new laws.

"Any legislation that sees fewer patients in our emergency departments after a night out is a step in the right direction."

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