

# Provision of drinking water

Making drinking water available to patrons is the responsibility of every licensee and is essential to minimising harm and intoxication.

The *Liquor Regulation 2002* has been amended to include a requirement for licensees to make drinking water available to patrons free of charge or at a reasonable cost. For example, a glass of tap water should not cost more than a glass of soft drink.

This regulation affects all Queensland licensees and is effective from 1 January 2006.

This amendment has been made in response to concerns raised by the community about the lack of freely available drinking water in some licensed premises.

Under the Liquor Act licensees are required to engage in practices and promotions that encourage the responsible consumption of liquor and to provide a safe environment for patrons.

Licensees can decide whether to provide drinking water free of charge, by request or for sale in bottled form as a precaution against drink spiking.

The Liquor Licensing Division also has the ability to incorporate the new requirements as a condition of the liquor licence and is considering this option for late trading venues.

Licensees breaching their conditions may face disciplinary action that may result in hefty fines or the loss of licence.

## Penalties for non-compliance

If a licensee is identified as charging an unreasonable amount for drinking water they risk a maximum penalty of \$7,500 for individuals or \$37,500 for corporations.

## Overcharged for water?

If a patron feels he/she has been overcharged for water at a licensed venue in Queensland they can contact the Liquor Licensing Division on 1300 654 919 or email [liquorinfo@dtftwid.qld.gov.au](mailto:liquorinfo@dtftwid.qld.gov.au).

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The laws referred to in this guide are complex and various qualifications may apply in different circumstances. You are encouraged to obtain independent legal or financial advice if you are unsure of how these laws apply to your situation.

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