



AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

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HIGH COURT JUDGMENTS – AHA STATEMENT

Statement from the AHA's National Chief Executive Officer, Bill Healey, about judgments in the High Court today that relate to licensed premises:

"Today's High Court decision relating to a motor accident in Tasmania in 2002, which resulted in the death of a patron who had been drinking at a licensed premises beforehand, does nothing to diminish the sadness and distress affecting all those involved in the tragic event.

"However, it further underlines the message that the AHA and many other stakeholders continue to push that Australians should never drink and drive.

"People who drink alcohol should either catch public transport or arrange for someone who isn't consuming alcohol to drive them home.

"As well, the High Court ruling reinforces the need for individuals to take responsibility for their own actions.

"The High Court has reaffirmed previous decisions in this area, however it will not dissuade hotels from continuing to work diligently to meet their liquor licensing obligations, including responsible service of alcohol.

"Hoteliers across Australia take these obligations very seriously.

"The hotel industry is committed to working with governments and the broader community to ensure Australians do not harm themselves as a result of having a drink.

"As far as the judgment about an incident at a function centre in south-western Sydney in 2003 is concerned, the AHA will examine the ruling in greater detail before making any public comment on it."

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The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) is the pre-eminent tourism and hospitality industry organisation in Australia. It has around 5000 members operating general and accommodation hotels. It has a national office and branches in each State and Territory. It also has a discrete branch to represent the interests of its accommodation members that covers four and five-star properties.