

14 November 2008



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Ms G Beattie
Director
Better Regulation Office
Department of Premier and Cabinet
GPO Box 5431
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: tradelicensing@dpc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Beattie

Re: Review into Licensing of Selected Occupations in NSW

Thank you for your letter of 30 October and for the opportunity to comment on the suitability or otherwise of retaining the licensing of Entertainment Industry agents and managers as well as venue consultants.

It was clearly demonstrated in the past (and certainly revealed in the exhaustive enquiry conducted by the Hon J Hannaford, MP) that the glamour and promise of a 'quick buck' from managing entertainers or providing entertainment often attracted persons that could only have been described as rogues. I have no doubt that the same, if not worse, would be the case today if it wasn't for the present system.

It would be unfortunate and to the detriment of entertainers, as well as those managing, staging or offering entertainment, if there was to be a return to the free-for-all days prior to the enactment of the Entertainment Industry Act.

It is the view of this Association and our members that the present regulation and licensing regime should remain in place as it has proved to be beneficial, not only to entertainers but also to those who own and operate entertainment venues such as hotels and the like. The 'fit and proper person' test, as well as the important accounting regulation and the commission and fee structures, all ensure a high level of propriety which benefits not only those in our industry but the community at large.

It is to be noted that the goal of licensing and regulation has been achieved without adding cost.

AHA (NSW) is not aware of any substance that can be or has been advanced subsequent to the advent of the legislation in 1989 or since the National Competition Policy review in 2003 to indicate that the existing arrangements should be either changed or scrapped. NSW is at the forefront of useful and effective entertainment industry regulation and that should continue to be the case.

Yours faithfully

SALLYFIELKE
Chief Executive Officer