



## *SUBMISSION*

*Licensing and Regulation  
of the  
Tattoo Industry  
in Australia.*



AUSTRALIAN  
TATTOOISTS  
GUILD

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## **Executive Summary**

This report provides an analysis and evaluation of the current and prospective licensing and regulation of the tattoo industry in Australia. Broad consultation investigating the current culture and concerns of professional tattoo artists has been considered during the writing of this report.

Methods of analysis of the existing systems have included comparisons to other industries currently regulated and licensed by State Government.

The recommendations offered suggest constructive ideas that are workable for any state government and offer insight into where problems have occurred and why.

Information has been contributed from various groups including Civil Liberties organizations and government departments.

Surveys have also been conducted on behalf of the ATG to gauge public opinion in regards to the provisions set out by the recent *Tattoo Parlours Act 2013 (QLD)* and *Tattoo Parlours Act 2012 (NSW)*.

Relevant data to the tattoo industry has also been supplied.

Results from this research show that the existing systems do not provide the tattoo industry with any productive outcomes.

Prospects of licensing and regulation of the tattoo industry in its current form are not positive or conducive to future growth of the industry. Nor do they protect the interests of the individual.

This report also finds that current systems have the potential to put the public at risk, as well as permanently damage this unique industry.

The major areas of concern require investigation and corrective action by state governments.



## **Introduction to the guild**

The Australian Tattooists Guild (ATG) was founded in February 2013 by a group of professional tattoo artists in response to the implementation of the licensing and regulation of the tattoo industry in NSW and QLD.

The ATG launched nationally in 2014 with the aim of uniting and supporting professional tattoo artists nationwide, whilst also providing through the Guild's structure a professional set of standards for tattoo artists to uphold.

The ATG have developed these standards and codes, in consultation with the wider industry to provide tattoo artists with a solid foundation on which to practice. As a part of the membership criteria for our organization, all artists are required to adhere to these standards.

Since its formation the group has continued to liaise with government and media to make sure its members interests are represented, and that any further regulation and legislation of tattooing in this country will be in the best interest of the professional standards that the Guild upholds.

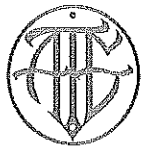
The ATG is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to protecting the history, culture and future of Australian Tattooing as well as elevating and advancing this art form.

We have an ongoing and larger vision to create national accreditation standards and industry-specific education in order to protect the industry from non-professional tattooists and suppliers.

It is through this submission that the ATG hopes to initiate a transparent and responsible dialogue that facilitates the necessary consultation by the various state governments. Subsequently, the ATG aims to achieve a better outcome for the impending licensing and regulation of the tattoo industry in states where the licensing has not yet been implemented, as well as influence any changes to the existing systems.

The ATG supports efforts that are being made to remove any potential criminal elements that may exist within the tattoo industry or the wider community but would ask the government to consider this submission when drafting legislation that may potentially be invasive and or intrusive to tattoo artists lives and working practices, and which may ultimately threaten the future of this unique industry.





## **Existing Schemes/ Perceived problems with NSW/QLD**

### **Lack of industry consultation**

The fact that neither NSW or QLD governments engaged in any real industry consultation resulted in schemes that have now created problems for both professional tattooists and the general public alike.

There exists a distinct lack of awareness within legislation of the way the culture and industry of tattooing in Australia operates. The issues that have been created through this lack of insight continue to cause ongoing strain on professional tattooists in licensed states, as most now feel disillusioned with the systems in place. It is perceived that an opportunity to introduce some much-needed structure into this small but thriving industry has been missed.

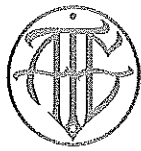
### **Proof of professional practice/ Amateur operators**

Due to the lack of a provision for any proof of professional practice in existing schemes, the industry is now experiencing many new tattoo businesses opening with amateur operators who have little to no experience.

Despite the tattoo industry currently having no accredited training regarding the wider technical practices of the art form, it is broadly accepted that any tattooists who wish to become professionally employed within the industry would first spend time working in a professional, council registered studio to gain the skills necessary to ensure that best practice is adhered to.

Throughout Australia, tattoo studios frequently encounter clients who have had work applied in unregistered premises by amateurs. The potential health risks for this practice are enormous and go beyond concerns of cross contamination. Inexperience and lack of integrity can lead to both fibrosis and psychological problems for the client. This continues to be a major concern to both professional tattoo artists and the public alike.

Due to the structuring of current licensing in N.S.W and Q.L.D, many areas where tattoo studios have ceased to operate, presumably due to licenses being denied, have now seen new business opening with operators who have little to no experience in the industry.



The single current requirement for licensing being that an individual only has to prove a lack of criminal involvement and close association with organised motorcycle gangs (OMCG) is inadequate if this industry is to be protected and preserved.

In a climate of fear that has been created by existing legislation being solely aimed at identifying and targeting individuals, this new risk has left many professional artists waiting for an incident to occur. It is foreseen that governments may then over-react and impose even more stringent provisions in order to rectify what they have created.

The ATG had been hopeful that the introduction of regulatory legislation would address the ongoing epidemic of amateur tattooing beyond simply imposing fines for individuals operating without licenses.

The ATG have offered suggestions as to how these issues may be overcome in the recommendation section of this submission.

#### State to state recognition of licenses

The nature of the industry and its professionals is quite transient - it is not uncommon for artists to work at more than one studio, and often within various states.

Licensing is currently not being recognised between any states and tattoo artists are now faced with having to meet requirements in more than one state to continue to regularly operate in this way.

This well-established practice of tattoo artists travelling interstate allows for the experience and shared knowledge in an industry that relies on this sort of conferencing in order to maintain and promote higher learning and experience. This cultural specificity has not been observed or written into any legislation or licensing regime thus far.

Whilst it is acknowledged that implementing arrangements to facilitate mutual recognition of licensing requirements between states is a complex process, it is one that needs mentioning due to the impact that it creates.



### License Renewal

Both the NSW and QLD licensing systems have neglected to put in place any structure to facilitate the renewal of licenses. Both tattooists and operators currently have to undergo the entire licensing application process again once their licenses have expired. This includes finger and palm printing as well as police checks.

QLD unlike NSW have also neglected to write any policy that allows for current licenses to continue once the expiry date has been reached. The QLD DFT are currently advising licensed tattooists to reapply 2 months prior to the expiry date of licenses.

Professional artists, many of whom waited lengthy periods to receive their licenses due to the time lag in the processing of initial applications, are now fearful that they will be unable to trade legally whilst they wait again for their new licenses to arrive.

The professional community is struggling to understand why a system of renewal is not in place. It is also perceived that this is a waste of government funds and police resources.

### Lack of education for license application

There is no requirement for proof of cross- contamination certification on application of the operators or tattooists license within existing schemes.

This constitutes another serious public health risk if the applicants do not have up to date, relevant information and are not educated/ trained to deal with potential communicable disease's being transmitted to the public.

It is a current requirement of the QLD government, Public Health Act 2003 (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) that tattooists require an infection control qualification – HLTIN402B – (Maintain Infection Control Standards in Office Practice Settings). The certification of this qualification is not however required as apart of the licensing application and it is understood that many tattooists operating within this state do not hold this qualification.

The ATG strongly suggest that governments must ensure there is a provision written into future and existing legislation that requires all tattooists applying for a license to have this relevant and important accreditation.



#### Police involvement/ powers of entry

Enforcement provisions currently allow police to enter licensed studios with sniffer dogs for the purpose of general drug, fire arm or explosives detection without notification.

Tattoo studios are required by health guidelines Australia-wide to be a sterile environment.

An animal entering this environment would cause serious cross- contamination issues and could potentially interrupt the business of any tattoo studio that was being searched in this way for an extended period. The studio would have to be closed and clients asked to leave, potentially mid-tattoo, whilst the entire studio was de-contaminated.

The ATG believe it is not unreasonable, if Law Enforcement Agency's are or continue to be allowed entry into tattoo studios nationally, that written notice be given unless a court issued warrant is in place.

#### Strain on Police resources re-Finger and palm printing

The requirement of applicants to provide finger and palm prints in existing schemes has had a particularly negative affect on the psyche of the industry. Many artists perceive they have been treated as criminals whilst never having committed an offence.

An ongoing problem experienced during this part of the application process was the lack of notification for the police stations required to take fingerprints. This process obviously stretched police resources.

Many applicants were repeatedly told they could not book a time at there local Police station to have their prints taken, many were repeatedly turned away and often long waits of up to several hours occurred.

Many instances were reported of police officers being completely unaware of the process required, or their part in the process, and were having to access the department's website to confirm their role.



Police checks should provide interested agencies with all information required. It is also recognized that as it is a requirement of applicants to consent to a full national police check, any criminal conviction will become apparent.

It is obvious that these prints are being used to create “criminal profiles” for tattoo artists for future reference.

It is perceived that finger and palm printing is incongruent with the determination of whether an individual is a fit and proper person. It is also a demoralizing process.

The ATG are of the opinion that these provisions are also a questionable breach of civil liberties and an unnecessary requirement for a tattoo artist, and/or operators who simply wish to continue their small business venture. It is also perceived to be a waste of police resources.

#### Lack of infrastructure

The lack of staff training within the Dept. of Fair Trading Offices in both NSW and QLD was very apparent when it came to any questions regarding the legislation and licensing scheme that was outside of the information listed on the department’s websites.

Tattooists often had to deal with staff that had no idea of the application process and could not provide answers to simple questions.

It was not uncommon for the receiving officers to have to read from the website in order to ascertain the appropriate actions necessary for receipt of the application.

This distinct lack of training for those attending to the applications meant that often applications were incorrectly processed.

There was a real lack of information in particular for the licensing of operators who were working under or within a company structure, as to who was to be licensed. This information did not specify if a director or the company itself required licensing.

Information was also not specific as to whether or not separate licenses were required for any other partners regarding tattooing within the umbrella of the company. Often the licensing agent gave



several different answers because these situations had not been pre-empted even though these are standard small business operating practices.

A common complaint about the licensing process was the lack of notification of the new laws, the deadlines and the necessary requirements.

Relying on media that is fast becoming out of date, such as newspaper notification does not help the studios make the transition in an efficient manner.

It is perceived that the most efficient method of notification of any licensing regime's introduction and cut-off dates would be most efficiently facilitated by local council, as all professional studios should be registered. It is however acknowledged that local government may not get involved with consultation and awareness for regulatory changes.

The ATG express interest in providing consultation re any future schemes that require broad notification of tattoo studios and would be interested in aiding in the facilitation of information to the industry.

#### Effect on Business Insurance

Another disturbing occurrence since legislation has been introduced, has been the large numbers of insurance companies either terminating their contracts or refusing to renew them with property owners who have tattoo studios as tenants, This has been experienced nationally.

Many tattoo studios have had their tenancies terminated due to property owners not wanting to become liable for the large excess being asked by offshore insurers.

It is now recognized that few if any Australian insurance companies will accept tattoo businesses as clients and many have now decided not to renew contracts, some after periods as long as 15 years.

In most cases it has been reported that insurance company's are directly linking these decisions to the current situation with OMC's and the decisions government's are making to deal with them.

The ATG have been provided with a statement that evidence's this trend. See appendix.



### Proposals for future reform

The proposals below are for the provision of solutions to the existing problems regarding licensing systems currently in use in NSW and QLD and offer suggestions that should be considered when any new systems are being implemented in other states and territories. They should be noted in addition to the other concerns listed in this submission paper.

1. Regular meetings between the government and the ATG regarding the preparation of new tattoo legislation or licensing procedure so as to foresee any difficulties in both introducing new legislation and resulting regulation in regard to the unique nature and culture of the tattoo industry.
2. The current status of communications network between the licensing agent and the police be assessed when considering application deadlines and grace periods, should police intelligence and Police Commissioner approval be required of any tattoo licensing system.
3. A national police report from a government-approved agent (such as those available readily online by existing companies) be acceptable as part of the application process, thus reducing the administrative burden on the police service and any consequential communications problems between the police and the licensing agents. The ATG suggest that the cost of this police check be taken into consideration when Government is scheduling fees for any licensing.
4. Any future licensing scheme of the industry that requires police involvement needs to ensure a high level of transparency as to what information is being collected for and to what end it will be used. Due to no information being given to applicants, other than their police history was being checked for any potential connections to criminal organizations, an atmosphere of fear was created. Many tattoo artists who had previously worked in studios owned by OMCGs were left for extended periods, (due to the lengthy transition times of applications) not knowing whether they would be granted a license due to the lack of information that was made available. State governments should take it into consideration when drafting legislation for the tattoo industry that many tattoo artists with no links to any OMCGs have worked in businesses that were/are owned as legitimate businesses by OMCGs. It should also be noted that as recently as a decade ago many studios in Australia had some connection or were frequented by OMGS, meaning many of the tattoo industry's most senior artists have at some point worked with or for OMCGs. This point should be carefully considered when agencies are determining whether or not to issue licenses to tattoo artists on this connection alone. It should also be noted that like most industries, many individuals hold criminal records for various crimes.
5. The ATG are of the opinion that the only crimes that should be deemed undesirable for the procurement of a license are those of a sexual or overtly violent nature.



6. Staff in the licensing agency be briefed on the new application process, or alternatively a separate office within the agency be trained to receive and process the new licenses. We strongly advise licensing procedures for operators to be clarified in relation to potential small business structures; including trusts, public and private companies, partnerships and joint ventures. Receipt of the application must be made available upon application to the registering party so as to provide proof to any enforcing agent of the application process having started.
7. A mail out to inform in person the new requirements needed for the licensing procedure, along with very specific and thorough FAQ on the licensing agent's website.
8. The scrapping of unnecessary fingerprinting requirements of the license application. If this questionable process is deemed to be necessary by state government's, all police clerical staff need to be notified of the new license requirements and any potential burden placed upon their office.
9. The International tattoo artist's temporary license be extended to multiple entry permits in order to insure that Australian conventions, tattoo artists and the general public do not loose the attendance of these artists.
10. The introduction of provisions that ensure individuals applying for a tattoo artist's license have a minimum 12 months practice in a Council Registered studio.
11. Governments actively encourage professional tattoo artists to undertake the industry standard education by introducing provisions that weave course certification into licensing systems.





## **ATG Industry Recommendations**

**1. The ATG believe the best outcome for current and future licensing of the tattoo industry would be achieved through the provision of education to the industry.**

Any future licensing of the tattoo industry should require the applicant to obtain the current industry standard course qualification for cross-contamination and sterilization, thus ensuring that all licensed tattoo artists have this important qualification.

The ATG is of the opinion that this course could potentially be offered as a part of the licensing process, whereby any fee charged for the tattooist's license would cover the cost in full or part of this course. As some members of the tattoo artists industry already hold this important qualification, it is suggested that any fee imposed under the licensing structure be adjusted accordingly.

*The ATG's Duty of Care stipulates that it is the tattooist's responsibility for their client's health and safety, and ensures that clients receive a quality of care and treatment that complies with both profession-specific and generic standards of practice.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The ATG is currently working with a national RTO course provider to modify the existing recommended/required course HLTIN402C (Maintain infection control standards in office practice settings) to modify the existing course so that it becomes more industry specific.

This current industry standard course is nationally recognised and is a unit offered predominantly to nurses and healthcare workers training and working in the health care sector. Unfortunately this course does not cover elements that deal specifically with the practical area of the tattooing practice. It does however cover extremely important subject matter that is relevant to the tattoo industry.

The existing course unit is available both online and in-house with current cost being in the area of \$450.00.

The ATG is currently developing a set of information packages that will be available to its members via the ATG website to provide tattoo artists with industry-specific practice information. This is a step we are taking to ensure the high standards the ATG upholds are met until such time as an industry-specific course is developed in the future.



**2. The ATG recommend that all applicants for a license must provide a statement of professional practice.**

Proof of a minimum 12 months experience in a council-registered studio would remove the problem of amateur tattooists obtaining professional licenses. This lack of requirement for proof/statement of professional practice poses a public health risk due to the nature of tattooing.

An accredited cross-contamination course will provide individuals with an appropriate level of hygiene to operate and practice within the tattoo artist's industry. It will not however prevent individuals from doing damage, such as Fibrosis / Hypertrophic scarring. It will also not prevent the psychological trauma that can be experienced by a client due to a lack of artistic knowledge and integrity on the part of the tattooists.

The ATG suggest that proof of 12months practice may be obtained through the signing of a statutory declaration, which states the period of professional practice by an individual within a council registered studio. Either the tattoo studio proprietor or the individual could sign this declaration.

Individuals who are in training but have not yet been employed in the tattoo studio for the full 12 months could be issued with a probationary license, which allows them to have access to the business but not to partake in any skin penetration practices. It is thought that this probationary status could be held on a register, which was accessible to interested agencies via the Internet, thus reducing the burden on departments to produce hard copy licenses.

*The ATG is encouraging this position through its membership structure, which requires tattooists to provide proof of qualification and experience in order to achieve full membership.*

**3. Individuals applying for a tattoo artist's license must be required to work in council-registered premises.**

The requirement for all individuals applying for a license to work in council- registered premises would eliminate the on-going problem of non-professional individuals practicing tattooing which continues to be a concern of professional tattoo artists and the general public. This requirement would also ensure that all professional tattoo artists have access to professional standard sterilization equipment as required by regulation.

Confirmation of a studio's registration should be checked via a council database.

*The ATG's Code of Conduct stipulates that tattooists must carry out their work in adequate professional premises that embody standard occupational and safety provisions as well as conforming to health department standards. The ATG's Duty of Care stipulates tattooist's obligations to refuse service if their ability to practice safely is jeopardized; this includes instances where unsafe premises or lack of access to proper*



*equipment compromises the safety of the public.*<sup>2</sup>

#### **4. The ATG recommend that states recognise tattoo licenses from other states**

Mutual recognition is a common practice within many industries operating in Australia today. It is understood however that the process to facilitate this is complex. The ATG suggest that states recognise licenses from other states with a potential online registration of interstate artists.

Due to the cost of licensing within each state and the frequency with which tattooists travel it is recommended that tattooists not be charged for this registration.

*The ATG's Code of Conduct stipulates members strive to contribute to the development of tattoo knowledge, culture and education. Freedom to travel and work from state to state stimulates and furthers the industry through healthy discussion and exchange of information.*<sup>3</sup>

#### **5. The ATG recommend that visiting overseas tattoo artists be eligible for multiple permit/ temporary licenses.**

The Australian tattoo industry and the tattoo collecting community are extremely fortunate to receive some of the worlds most highly accomplished tattoo artists who travel to Australia annually. Not only do these international artists visit as guests in tattoo studios, they also attend our growing numbers of International tattoo conventions. International tattoo artists also facilitate the important feature of conferencing within the industry. The ATG suggest that in order to accommodate this important relationship, multiple permits/ temporary licenses be made available to visiting international professional tattoo artists for this purpose.

*The ATG is encouraging this position through it's membership structure, which makes provisions for international artists visiting Australia to be included in the ATG, thereby encouraging all tattooists operating in Australia adhere to the ATG's codes and standards.*

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<sup>2</sup> The experience of tattooists with local council health officers Australia-wide, who inspect tattoo studios, is more often than not that the Council Officer is unaware of working practices within the tattoo industry. The ATG proposes that councils endeavor to educate its officers through the undertaking the current industry course so that a broader understanding of the working practices of the tattoo industry may be obtained. This may also assist officers in providing information to individuals who are registering a premise for the first time as well as recognizing and achieving an ongoing standard within existing studios.

<sup>3</sup> It is common practice within the tattoo industry today that tattoo artists travel interstate to do what is called within the industry "a guest spot" at other tattoo studios. This important feature of our industry allows a tattoo artists to not only showcase his/her work in another area but also provides an opportunity for the exchange of information/education with other artists. This practice has also, in part, been responsible for the evolution of the tattoo industry.



**6. The ATG supports applicants for a tattoo license having to partake in police checks.**

The ATG recognises that due to the nature of the tattooing practice individuals who have been convicted of any sexually based or overtly violent crimes would not be desirable within this industry. The ATG recommend that it would be appropriate for a period of 10 years to elapse since any conviction for a crime of such nature, After which period it would be appropriate for an individual to hold a license.

*The ATG's Code of Conduct stipulates members must uphold the law in the conduct of their professional activities and members must be removed from any affiliation with any criminal organization, including OMCGs.*

**7. The ATG recommends that finger and palm prints should not be required**

The ATG are of the opinion that finger and palm printing is incongruent with the determination of whether an individual is a fit and proper person.

**8. The ATG recommend that any potential future Bill be named the 'Tattoo Industry Bill'.**

The ATG, in conjunction with broad industry consultation, are of the opinion that the 'Tattoo Parlour Act' as is named in other states is inappropriately named. Tattooists nationally have taken offence to the word "Parlour" being used to describe a piece of legislation that aims to license and regulate the tattoo industry. This term that may have been used to describe a tattoo studio nearly two decades ago is now considered out of date and offensive.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> The definition of the word "parlour" as is defined by the Oxford standard dictionary and again in the British free dictionary is as follows - Parlour: reception room in an inn or club where visitors can be received. We do not believe this word appropriately describes the tattoo industry. The wider industry takes offence to the use of the word "Parlour" being used in a piece of legislation that is aimed at licensing and regulation of the tattoo industry. The word "parlour" has negative connotations and is inaccurate by definition.



## **Conclusion**

The Tattoo industry is alive and thriving in Australia today.

Within Australia there are some of the industry's most accomplished artists who are recognised both nationally and abroad.

Over the last decade tattooing has evolved globally, with an interest in this art form now becoming widespread. Many talented and refined artists have chosen to join this industry, now today tattoo artists are revered for the incredible skill they impart into their work, with many artists having lengthy client waiting lists.

The discerning collector may now choose from a variety of styles that for the most part were not available in the past in such a refined way. The tattoo artists responsible for these pieces work incredibly hard and the industry has become very competitive.

A culture within the tattoo industry now exists whereby the hosting and sharing of knowledge is paramount, with artists striving to achieve the highest standards. Tattoo artists travel regularly, both nationally and internationally to attend conventions and facilitate the conferencing of knowledge.

Many tattoo artists today extend their skills to outside of the traditional settings and mediums, and paint to exhibit their work in galleries around the world. Tattoo artists are known to regularly contribute their artwork to a wide range of media platforms and are regularly being sought to contribute to both private and community projects.

Standards within the industry are now rising very quickly and individual artists are having to seek out and apply ever-changing technologies to their work. Most tattoo artists now have expectations of themselves and the studios they work in to provide a professional and well-equipped environment, so as to achieve the best outcomes for clients and themselves.

It is partly due to this fact that the majority of tattoo artists who now practice within this industry do so independently of any known criminal organizations or OMCG's that once owned some of Australia's tattoo studios.

The ATG believe this is a point that needs emphasising and clarifying due to existing schemes having a strong emphasis on identifying individuals and their connections to organized crime.

The response from tattooists, both nationally and internationally has been one of dissatisfaction at the direction in which the legislation regarding the tattoo industry in Australia has taken.



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The majority of tattoo artists feel that an opportunity to have some responsible input from governmental licensing and regulatory systems has thus far been missed. The overwhelming majority of artists are pro licensing and regulation and would welcome responsible action by state governments.

It is hoped that through this submission some insight will be gained into what is required in order to promote and protect this ancient and unique art form.

Written and compiled by [REDACTED] ATG



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### Government Departments

[REDACTED] Communicable Disease Prevention and  
Control Health, VIC

[REDACTED] Department of Health, Vic

[REDACTED] TAE, VIC

Protection Branch VIC Department of Health

[REDACTED]  
VIC Consumer Affairs, VIC

Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Consumer Affairs Victoria, VIC

Victorian Building Authority, VIC

Centre for Adult Education, VIC

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
N.A.V.A, NSW

Australian Council for the Visual Arts, NSW

Department of Fair Trading, NSW

[REDACTED] QLD Office of Fair Trading

Department of Health, NSW

Department of Health, SA

Department of Health, WA



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Department of Health, Tasmania

Department of Health, N.T

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Department Fair Trading, QLD

Department Fair Trading, NSW

### **MP' S**

David Shoebridge MP - NSW Greens, Legislative Council

Fiona Patton, Eros, MP, VIC

Campbell Newman MP- Premier of Queensland

Jarrod Bleijie MP – QLD Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Jack Dempsey MP - QLD Minister for Police and Community Safety

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP - QLD Leader of the Opposition

Lawrence Springborg MP - QLD Minister for Health

[REDACTED] QLD Office of Fair Trading

[REDACTED] QLD Office of Fair Trading

Kerry Millard MP, member for Sandgate QLD

### **Private organisations**

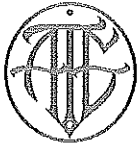
[REDACTED] Mayfield RTO

[REDACTED]

Civil Liberty Victoria

Justice Action, VIC





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### Industry Consultation

[REDACTED] Rock of Ages, Lennox Head, NSW  
[REDACTED] Tattoo Magic, Fitzroy, VIC  
[REDACTED] Green Lotus Tattoo, Brunswick, VIC  
[REDACTED] Green Lotus Tattoo, Brunswick, VIC  
[REDACTED] Westide Tattoo, QLD  
[REDACTED] VIC  
[REDACTED] Korpus, Brunswick, VIC  
[REDACTED] Darwin City Tattoo, NT  
[REDACTED] Green Lotus Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] Chapel Tattoo, Prahran, VIC  
[REDACTED] Pure Vision, Abbotsford, VIC  
[REDACTED] Tattoo Machine, VIC  
[REDACTED] Black Throne Tattoo, QLD  
[REDACTED] Black Throne Tattoo, QLD  
[REDACTED] Tattoo Connection, Knox, VIC  
[REDACTED] Gold Coast Tattoo, QLD  
[REDACTED] Skin FX Tattoo, Gold Coast, QLD  
[REDACTED] Sideshow Tattoos, VIC  
[REDACTED] The Darling Parlour, NSW  
[REDACTED] Tidal Tattoo Torquay, VIC

[REDACTED]



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Man's Ruin, VIC  
13 Crowns, NSW  
Anja Tattoo, NSW  
Armani Artspace, ACT  
Artist Lounge, VIC  
Australian Tattoo Co, VIC  
Bad Apples Tattoo Emporium, QLD  
Base 9, VIC  
Beauty 4 Life, Vic  
Bishops Mobile Tattoo Parlour, QLD  
Black Rose Tattoos, NSW  
Blacktown Tattoo, NSW  
Blue Lady Tattoo, VIC  
Bodycraft Tattoo Australia, NSW  
Brunswick Tattoos, QLD  
Cairns City Tattoo, QLD  
Cairns City Tattoo, QLD  
Capricorn Body Art, VIC  
Chapel Tattoo, VIC  
Conspiracy Tattoo, NSW  
Crimson Art Collective, VIC  
Crush City Tattoo, QLD  
Cyco City, VIC



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[REDACTED] Dagger and Lark, VIC  
[REDACTED] Daredevil Tattoos/The Gallery Tattoo Studio, VIC  
[REDACTED] Deep N Dark Tattoo Studio, WA  
[REDACTED] Deep N Dark Tattoo Studio, WA  
[REDACTED] Devils Ink, VIC  
[REDACTED] DH West Coast Tattoo, WA  
[REDACTED] Distinkt Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] Elliot Ross Tattoo, QLD  
[REDACTED] Vic Market Tattoo, Nth Melbourne, VIC  
[REDACTED] Empire Tattoos Oxenford, QLD  
[REDACTED] Eruption Tattoo Art Studio, VIC  
[REDACTED] Eternal Ink Tattoos, VIC  
[REDACTED] Evocative Ink, NSW  
[REDACTED] Foothills Tattoo, WA  
[REDACTED] Graffiti for the Soul, QLD  
[REDACTED] Green Lotus, VIC  
[REDACTED] Green Lotus Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] Green Lotus Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] Green Lotus Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] Green Lotus Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] Third Eye Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] Hammer & Forge Tattoo Studio, QLD  
[REDACTED] Highline Tattoo, NSW



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TATTOOISTS  
GUILD

[REDACTED] Honey Ink Tattoo Studio, NSW  
[REDACTED] Impulse piercing and tattoo, NSW  
[REDACTED] Ink Addict, QLD  
[REDACTED] Ink Addict, QLD  
[REDACTED] Inked Out Tattoo Studio, QLD  
[REDACTED] Inkhouse, NSW  
[REDACTED] Inkplosion Tattoo, QLD  
[REDACTED] Inner Vision Tattoo, NSW  
[REDACTED] King St Tattoo, NSW  
[REDACTED] Korpus, VIC  
[REDACTED] Korpus, VIC  
[REDACTED] Kustome Kulture & Purely Piercing, VIC  
[REDACTED] LDF Tattoo, NSW  
[REDACTED] Liquid Silver, VIC  
[REDACTED] Little Tokyo, NSW  
[REDACTED] Lost City Tattoo, WA  
[REDACTED] Lucky Fifteen Tattoo Emerald, QLD  
[REDACTED] Lust for Life, QLD  
[REDACTED] Lust for Life, QLD  
[REDACTED] Malika Rose, QLD  
[REDACTED] Manly Tattoo, NSW  
[REDACTED] Manly Tattoo, NSW  
[REDACTED] Nimbin Tattoo Studio, NSW



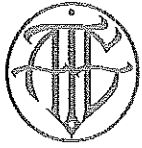
AUSTRALIAN  
TATTOOISTS  
GUILD

[REDACTED] No Regrets Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] On the road, WA  
[REDACTED] Private Studio, VIC  
[REDACTED] Private Studio, QLD  
[REDACTED] Private Studio, VIC  
[REDACTED] Progression Tattoo, SA  
[REDACTED] Rob Sloan Tattoo, NSW  
[REDACTED] Shanghai Charlies, NSW  
[REDACTED] Sideshow Tattoo/Vivid Ink, VIC  
[REDACTED] Sin City Tattoos, VIC  
[REDACTED] Sink or Swim Tattoo, QLD  
[REDACTED] Skin FX, QLD  
[REDACTED] Skin FX Tattoos, QLD  
[REDACTED] Skink, VIC  
[REDACTED] Soulfire Studio, QLD  
[REDACTED] Southcoast Tattoo/Southside Tattoo, NSW  
[REDACTED] Splash of Colour Rye, VIC  
[REDACTED] Splash of Colour, VIC  
[REDACTED] STR Body Modifications, NSW  
[REDACTED] STR Body Modifications, NSW  
[REDACTED] STR Body Modifications, NSW  
[REDACTED] Studio 64, QLD  
[REDACTED] Tama Tattoo, VIC



AUSTRALIAN  
TATTOOISTS  
GUILD

[REDACTED] Tattoo Junction, QLD  
[REDACTED] Tattoo Magic, VIC  
[REDACTED] Tattoo Magic, VIC  
[REDACTED] Tattoo Magic, VIC  
[REDACTED] Tattoo Power, ACT  
[REDACTED] The Darling Parlour, NSW  
[REDACTED] The Darling Parlour, NSW  
[REDACTED] The Dead Man's Hand, QLD  
[REDACTED] The Forgotten Son, VIC  
[REDACTED] The Forgotten Son, VIC  
[REDACTED] The Greville Inn Tattoo Studio, VIC  
[REDACTED] The Iron Buddha, NSW  
[REDACTED] The Marked Heart, VIC  
[REDACTED] The Needle's Kiss, QLD  
[REDACTED] The Needle's Kiss, QLD  
[REDACTED] The Needle's Kiss, QLD  
[REDACTED] The Painted Ape Tattoo Studio, QLD  
[REDACTED] The Painted Lady Tattoo Studio, QLD  
[REDACTED] The Tatt Shop, WA  
[REDACTED] The Tattoo Gallery, SA  
[REDACTED] The Tattoo Gallery, SA  
[REDACTED] The Tattoo Gallery, SA



AUSTRALIAN  
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GUILD

[REDACTED] The Tattoo Gallery, SA  
[REDACTED] Third Eye Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] Tidal Tattoo Toquay, VIC  
[REDACTED] Todd Bailey Tattoo, NSW  
[REDACTED] Trademark Ink, QLD  
[REDACTED] True Love Tattoo, QLD  
[REDACTED] True Love Tattoo, QLD  
[REDACTED] True Tattoo, QLD  
[REDACTED] Under The Gun Tattooing and Body Piercing, QLD  
[REDACTED] Unique Tattoos, WA  
[REDACTED] Unique Tattoos, WA  
[REDACTED] Very Sharpe Tattoo, NSW  
[REDACTED] Vic Market Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] Vic Market Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] Vic Market Tattoo, VIC  
[REDACTED] WA Ink, WA  
[REDACTED] West Coast Tattoo, WA  
[REDACTED] Whiskey Lane Tattoo Co, QLD  
[REDACTED] Wicked Ink, NSW  
[REDACTED] Wicked Ink Penrith, NSW  
[REDACTED] XIII Crowns Custom Tattoos, NSW  
[REDACTED] Voodoo Tattoo, NSW  
[REDACTED] The piercing Urge, VIC



# AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

Foundry Tattoo, QLD  
Korpus, VIC  
GFMS Dermagraphic Artistry, NSW  
Iron Anvil, NSW  
383 Tattoo, QLD  
Blue Lady Tattoo, VIC  
The mark of the Gypsy Tattoo & Piercing Studio, NSW  
Progression Tattoo, SA  
Green Lotus Tattoo, VIC  
Skin FX Tattoo, QLD  
Lust for Life Tattoo, QLD  
Leviathan Tattoo Gallery, Vic  
LDF Tattoo, NSW  
Adorned Empire, WA  
Rock of Ages Tattoo Parlour, NSW  
King of Rings, VIC  
Lust for Life Tattoo, QLD  
Fraser Coast Tattoo  
Tama Studio, VIC  
Loco Tattoo, QLD  
White Skull Tattooing, NSW  
Lees Tattooing and Body Piercing Studio, QLD  
Desperado Ink, Vic





AUSTRALIAN  
TATTOOISTS  
GUILD

██████████ Third Eye Tattoo, Vic  
██████████ Black Diamond Tattoo Port Adelaide, SA  
██████████ Kings Cross Ink, NSW  
██████████ AuthentInk, NSW  
██████████ Little Tokyo, NSW  
██████████ Method Art Collective, QLD  
██████████ Tattooing by Colette, WA  
██████████ Tattoo Paradise, QLD  
██████████ Australian Tattoo CO, VIC

## Legislation

Health (Infectious disease) Regulations 2001  
Tattoo Parlor Bill 2012 (NSW)  
Tattoo Parlor Bill 2013 (QLD) Explanatory Notes  
Tattoo Parlor Bill 2013 (QLD)  
Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002  
Crimes (Criminal Organisations Control) Act 2012  
Codes of Practice, Safe work Australia  
Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000  
Amended Constitution of Australia 2003  
Victorian Bill of Human Rights



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Victorian Health Department Guidelines, Tattoo/Body Art industries

Health guidelines for personal care and body art industries, Vic Gov Department of Human Services

Public Health Act 2010 NSW

Health Services Act 1997 NSW

Public Health Act 2005 QLD

Public Health Act 2011 SA

Public and Environmental Health Act 2011 NT

### Media

Journalist for 7.30 Report, ABC TV

- Journalist for Catalyst, ABC TV

- Journalist for Courier Mail

- Journalist for ABC Radio Brisbane

- Journalist For ABC Radio Brisbane

- Journalist for ABC Radio Brisbane

Journalist for Gold Coast Bulletin

- Journalist for Gold Coast Bulletin

- Journalist for ABC News

Journalist for ABC News

Journalist for Brisbane Times

Journalist for The Sydney Morning Herald

- Journalist and Presenter for Hack, Triple J Radio

- Journalist for Hack, Triple J Radio



AUSTRALIAN  
TATTOOISTS  
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## **Appendix**

ATG Mission and Purpose

ATG Duty of Care

ATG Code of Professional Conduct

ATG Articles of Association

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**Civil Liberties Australia submission  
in support of the  
Australian Tattooists Guild submission  
for the  
Regulation of Tattoo Businesses**

Civil Liberties Australia (CLA) supports the submission of the Australian Tattooists Guild (ATG) in proposals for the regulation of Tattoo businesses. We recognise that by proactively engaging with the Government, tattoo businesses and the community, the industry can be better regulated, without infringing on civil liberties. The experience in NSW and Qld in the passing of the *Tattoo Parlours Act 2012 (NSW)* and the *Tattoo Parlours Act 2013 (Qld)* has unacceptably infringed on civil liberties. This submission will propose an option for regulation.

**Policy Objectives**

In considering why the tattoo industry needs to be better regulated, one must first consider what are the qualities of a tattoo artist? CLA and the ATG agree that a fit and proper tattoo artist ought to be a person who:

- is over the age of 18
- possesses the requisite artistic skill;
- produces individualised artwork;
- possesses the requisite technical knowledge;
- possesses the requisite experience;
- is duly qualified; and
- possesses the requisite Occupational Health and Safety certifications.

In contrast, the above mentioned *Tattoo Parlours Bills* in QLD and NSW state that a fit and proper person to work in a tattoo business is a person who is not a controlled person. A logical inconsistency exists. We submit that the core and primary competencies for a person to be a fit and proper person to be employed in a tattoo business ought to be a person who is skilled and experienced at tattooing, possesses the requisite qualifications and knowledge, and is certified to operate the business in conformance with Occupational Health and Safety. Being a controlled person is a status divorced from the art of tattooing.

In the Second Reading Speech in the NSW Parliament, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Honourable Michael Gallacher stated that:

*“The Tattoo Parlours Bill 2012 aims to break the stranglehold that outlaw motorcycle gangs have over the tattoo industry in New South Wales.”<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Hansard (2012) Legislative Council, NSW Parliament, 23 May 2012.

CLA and the ATG disagree with the Minister's priorities for industry regulation. The purpose of this legislation ought to be the protection of the community through the creation of a regulatory regime that ensures tattoo artists are skilled, experienced and qualified to tattoo clients in a safe and healthy manner.

### Police Checks

CLA agrees with the ATG and the Governments of NSW and QLD that the Tattoo industry needs licensing and regulation. We submit that Tattoo business operators and their employees should undergo Police background checks for the purpose of ascertaining their identity and criminal history. CLA recognises and agrees with the ATG that, due to the nature of tattooing, individuals who have been convicted of sexual or violent crimes present a public safety risk. It is not acceptable to expose the public to this risk. Furthermore, CLA and the ATG agree that individuals connected to organised crime need to be identified. The ATG Code of Conduct stipulates that

*"Members must uphold the law in the conduct of their professional activities and members must be removed from any affiliation with any criminal organisation".<sup>2</sup>*

CLA submits that this industry developed and accepted standard should be adopted nationally. The purpose of this industry based standard is to protect the public from unacceptable risk.

### Criminal Intelligence Gathering Regime

CLA and the ATG are concerned, in the highest order, that the *Tattoo Parlours Bills* in NSW and QLD are a mechanism for the gathering of criminal intelligence. This purpose is incongruent with civil liberties. The establishment of a regime which compels all persons (except a financial institution that only has a financial interest in the business) who own, operate, or are employed by a tattoo business, and their close associates, to provide finger and palm prints for "any purpose that the Commissioner sees fit"<sup>3</sup> is unacceptable

The collection of private information should be consistent with the Australian Privacy Principles. Australian Privacy Principle 6 provides that:

*"...personal information about an individual that was collected for a particular purpose (the primary purpose), the entity must not use or disclose the information for another purpose (the secondary purpose)..."<sup>4</sup>*

CLA submits that the collection of private information under the existing provisions is not reasonable and proportionate. The necessary checks and balances protecting private information have not been written into the legislation.

The collection of finger and palm prints is incongruent with the determination of whether a person is a fit and proper person to be licenced to own or operate a tattoo business. The collection of finger and palm prints does not reliably indicate whether a person:

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<sup>2</sup> Australian Tattooist Guild (2014) Code of Conduct

<sup>3</sup> s. 13(3) Tattoo Parlours Bill 2012 (NSW)

<sup>4</sup> Officer of the Australian Information Commissioner (2014) Privacy Factsheet 17: Australian Privacy Principles

- is over the age of 18
- possesses the requisite artistic skill;
- produces individualised artwork;
- possesses the requisite technical knowledge;
- possesses the requisite experience;
- is duly qualified; and
- possesses the requisite Occupational Health and Safety certifications.

We submit that the collection of finger and palm prints has been inserted into the *Tattoo Parlours Bills* in both NSW and QLD for collecting criminal intelligence. The expansion of the magnitude of the collection of private information to ‘close associates’ enlarges the scope of collection beyond what is reasonable necessary and proportionate. It is incongruent with the values of Australian society. We submit that the collection of private information should be quarantined for the purposes of ascertaining the identity and criminal history of an applicant. If an application is refused, withdrawn or the licence ceases to be effective, the private information must be destroyed. It is unacceptable that private information is indefinitely retained.

CLA submits that administrative decision making must be open to judicial review. The *Tattoo Parlours Bills* in both NSW and QLD fail to provide an appropriate mechanism for reviewing administrative decisions. Should tattoo businesses be regulated, CLA agrees with the ATG that the ordinary principles of judicial review must apply. Information that does not meet the ordinary evidentiary standards must not be admitted into evidence. It is not acceptable that parties are not availed of the information alleged. It is an affront to natural justice that information is not put to, and tested by an applicant in court. An applicant must be given full access to information taken into account by the decision maker. The current provision in the QLD legalisation which provides that: “the *Judicial Review Act 1991*, part 4 does not apply to a decision of the chief executive mentioned in section 56(1)”<sup>5</sup> is not acceptable.

Nor is it acceptable that this legislation further erodes civil liberties where:

“Subject to section 56, unless the Supreme Court decides that a decision of the chief executive mentioned in section 56(1) is affected by jurisdictional error, the decision—  
 (a) is final and conclusive; and  
 (b) can not be challenged, appealed against, reviewed, quashed, set aside or called in question in any other way, under the *Judicial Review Act 1991* or otherwise (whether by the Supreme Court, or another court, a tribunal or another entity); and  
 (c) is not subject to any declaratory, injunctive or other order of the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or another entity on any ground.”<sup>6</sup>

In a further abrogation of the institutional strength of the judicial system, the abovementioned legislation provides that:

“In any proceedings relating to a review of a decision of the chief executive mentioned in section 56(1), QCAT or the Supreme Court—  
 (a) must, on the application of the commissioner, take steps to maintain the confidentiality of a criminal intelligence report or other criminal information”<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> s. 58(1) *Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013* (Qld)

<sup>6</sup> s. 58(2) *Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013* (Qld)

CLA submits that this is unacceptable. If information does not meet the evidential threshold, it must not be considered by the court. Lowering the evidential burden to include information, that is not put to the applicant, and cannot be effectively tested in open court, is incongruent with the culture and institutions of Australian society, and the rule of law. CLA agrees with the ATG that, should the Government introduce a regulatory regime, all information put to the decision maker must accord to existing standards.

CLA and the ATG are concerned that enabling an animal to enter a sterile environment poses a public health risk. The above-mentioned *Tattoo Parlours Bills* in both NSW and QLD provide that detector dogs may enter a tattoo business. We call on the Government to consult with stakeholders to negotiate a better approach that balances the needs of tattoo businesses and enforcement agencies.

#### Further Consultation

CLA and the ATG encourage the Parliament to engage with the industry and consult more widely with the community and stakeholders. The QLD Government engaged in no community consultation prior to the introduction of legislation. This is unacceptable. For the Parliament of QLD to behave so is undemocratic. In NSW a wider level of stakeholder consultation and parliamentary debate occurred. It would be preferable for Governments around Australia to learn lessons from the experiences of QLD and NSW, and engage in genuine consultation with stakeholders at the coal face.

It is also preferable that the laws throughout Australia for the one industry are harmonised, and are based nationally on the rule of law rather than arbitrary, non-evidence-based decision making, accompanied by no practical review or appeal rights.

CLA is available and willing to further discuss this issue. Please contact:

[REDACTED]

**CLA** Civil Liberties Australia Inc. A04043  
Box 7438 Fisher ACT Australia  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Web: [www.cla.asn.au](http://www.cla.asn.au)  
October 2014

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<sup>7</sup> S. 57(2) Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013 (Qld)



## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

The Australian Tattooists Guild has compiled the following report to assist the Queensland Organised Crime Commission in further developing suitable licensing regimes for the Tattoo industry in QLD.

In addition to presenting this report the ATG would like to express interest in developing further dialogue with the commission in order to provide consultation that may assist the commission in its endeavors to identify suitable regulatory tools for the tattoo industry.

The Commissions Inquiry comes at a very important time for the Australian tattoo industry as we now see various State and Territory Governments implementing legislation to tackle the huge problems created by the infiltration of organised crime into industries.

We would now ask the Commission to review the structure of the regimes that have been implemented in QLD and to take this opportunity to make recommendations that ensure legislation responsibly protects the broader interests and needs of the tattoo industry and its participants.

On behalf of the ATG committee and our members we would like to thank the Commission for allowing us an opportunity to present this body of work.

We remain hopeful that through this process positive outcomes for the future can be achieved.

Regards,

President

Vice President





Both QLD and NSW parliaments have introduced licensing regimes for tattooists and tattoo business operators in order to address the perceived connections between organized crime groups and the tattoo industry.

The Professional tattooing community remains pro regulation and supports government's endeavors to address the infiltration of criminal organisations into industry. It is however broadly perceived that an opportunity for regulation to tackle other ongoing problems that the industry faces has been missed within the framework of current regimes.

Within this report we look to identify suitable regulatory tools that may be of assistance to agencies in combating the perceived infiltration of organized crime groups whilst also addressing the broader needs of industry.

We also evaluate the efficacy of the tools available to regulators as well as the costs and benefits of their use to industry participants and regulating agencies.

### **The existence and extent of infiltration**

Organised crime groups are often described as flexible and adaptive and as such present an ever-evolving challenge for law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

Due to the tattoo industry having evolved in Australia predominantly through an interest from OMG's in the mid 1970's the art form has retained, to some degree, a reputation that is synonymous with criminality.

Traditionally within OMG clubs tattooists were trained and employed with individual tattooists often having no affiliation with the club nor intentionally profiteering from any criminal conduct said clubs might have been involved in.



Interest from OMGs in the art form has now greatly diminished over the last decade as individuals who display a genuine interest in tattooing have joined the industry.

New perceptions also continue to evolve as an increasing interest in tattooing from both the media and the general public grow.

The extent of infiltration within the tattoo industry remains unquantified with access to police intelligence being limited.

Victoria Police has stated that OMGs are involved in the tattoo industry in order to distribute amphetamine-type substances to a wide market.

*(Law Reform, Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee, Parliament Vic, above n9 359).*

In response to this the ATG would speculate that participation in the aforementioned activities are likely to be conducted by smaller groups of individuals with distribution occurring out of random individual premises. These operations are perceived as not necessarily being linked to OMG's alone but rather opportunistic ventures on the part of a small group of non-genuine operators.

Since the implementation of licensing regimes in QLD and NSW, Victoria, along with other non regulated states has seen the emergence of OMG operators opening in areas not known for their presence in the past.

It is perceived that what infiltration does continue to exist nationally does so for the purpose of the intermingling of legitimate and criminal enterprises to enable the commission of crime or concealment of the proceeds of crime with random use of professional facilitators in order to conduct criminal activities.



### **Social harms to industry**

The social harms of infiltration to the tattoo industry include

- entry to occupation/ industry for illegitimate purposes, organised crime groups having a propensity for general unlawful conduct when operating a legitimate business, including tax and occupational health and safety and safety infringements
- threats to public safety through the use of unlawful tactics to achieve commercial results (for example, the use of intimidation or violence when existing business operators refuse to pay protection moneys to organized crime groups operating in their area)
- damage to the integrity of the industry where infiltration by organized crime groups attracts and shelters disreputable participants and repels reputable participants or entrants.

Members of our organisation in QLD have stated that since the implementation of licensing regimes certain known OMG businesses continue to operate. This suggests that the scrutiny of applicants and their associates is not necessarily effective in preventing entry by organized crime groups.

A larger phenomena being experienced in QLD is that where certain operators have ceased to exist, unknown amateurs have gained licensure and now operate openly.

*(See – ATG Submission)*

This phenomenon has created new problems for professional artists.

Due to the industries culture and past association with OMCG's it has long been recognised that certain areas were off limits to new business operators that had OMCG business established within that geographical zone.



This new social harm created by amateur operators flooding the market now threatens the integrity, culture and sustainability of our small but fast growing industry. It has also created huge public health risks due to entrants not being required to provide agencies with any proof of qualification as to their ability to practice.

The public perception being that if an individual holds a license, they must have proven that they were qualified to obtain it.  
*(See – ATG Submission)*

Due also to the availability of tattoo supplies on the Internet, individuals who are not professionally recognised and therefore not eligible to purchase quality supplies from legitimate industry supply company's can gain access to equipment to practice. The availability of inferior untested pigments and equipment to the general public via internet commerce continues to be of a huge concern to both professional tattooists and health professionals/ organisations nationally.

Whilst state governments nationally recognise the significant health complications associated with tattooing and endeavor to address this, it is perceived that governments also need to protect the interests of both the industry and the general public through restricting or banning the sale of industry related equipment to the general public.

### **Identifying suitable regulatory responses**

According to the explanatory notes for the Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013: The principle policy objective of the Bill is to introduce a new occupational licensing and regulatory framework which eliminates and prevents infiltration of the Queensland tattoo industry by criminal organisations, including criminal motor cycle gangs and their associates.

The ATG disagree with the principle policy objective and suggest that any Bill directed at implementing a licensing regime for the tattoo



industry should have the protection of the integrity and sustainability of industry as its principal policy objective, whilst also addressing the impacts of organised crime on industry.

#### DFT as regulating agency

As a traditional regulating agency the DFT has the potential to deliver a wide range of regulatory purposes. These are not limited to the prevention of criminal conduct or infiltration of industry for criminal purposes.

The DFT has the ability to balance competing regulatory requirements whilst addressing numerous regulatory objects. With clear definition on policy priorities and a more comprehensive understanding of the nature of the industry and its regulatory requirements effective regulatory measures and their administration are achievable.

*(see- ATG Submission)*

The use of regulatory tools currently employed to prevent the infiltration of organised crime groups into the tattoo industry have the potential to be enhanced through the further development of suitable pre conditions for entry.

It is perceived that tailored preconditions would provide agencies with an ability to achieve the relevant regulatory goals whilst also protecting and promoting professional standards within industry.

#### Positive licensing regimes

Entry into the tattoo industry is currently regulated by a positive licensing regime. By scrutinizing prospective entrants, a licensing regime has the potential to prevent the corruption or destabilization of the industry by organized crime groups whilst ensuring the integrity of industry is maintained through the use of tailored pre conditions.



Further, an effective licensing regime may reduce regulatory burdens in the monitoring of industry as there does exist confidence in the probity of new entrants.

A tailored regime that focused on qualification rather than criminality, supported by the development of pathways for entry would act as a deterrent for criminal organisations and infiltration.

*"Regulatory regimes have the ability to prescribe the method by which an applicant's identity is to be proved, or the method may be within the regulator's discretion"*

*(VLRC consultation paper 2015)*

It is suggested that focus on entrant's ability to provide proof of professional practice would ensure that both industries and governments regulatory goals were met – this provides for priorities of industry as described within this report, as well as supporting government work in combating the infiltration of organised crime into industry.

#### License preconditions

A key aspect of a licensing regime is the use of preconditions to ensure that unqualified or unsuitable people are not granted licenses. QLD's current regime has attempted to achieve this. However, due to entry requirements not focusing on proof of professional practice - outside of requirements to work in council registered premises - individuals with little to no training have obtained licensure to operate.

The ability of preconditions to clearly identify entrants into industry as legitimate professional operators clearly exists.

In order for the ATG to offer suggestions for suitable pre conditions for entry into industry that not only create barriers for entry to organized crime groups but also ensure entrants hold the requisite skill to participate, the qualities of a tattoo artist need identifying.



An individual that is a fit and proper person for entry into the tattoo industry should retain the following qualities;

- possess the requisite artistic skill
- possess the requisite technical knowledge
- possess the requisite experience;
- is duly qualified; and
- possesses the requisite Occupational Health and Safety certifications

*(developed in conjunction with CLA- see attachment)*

The Tattoo Parlour Bill in QLD states that a fit and proper person to work in the tattoo industry is a person who is not a controlled person. Logical inconsistencies exist. Being a controlled person is a status that is clearly divorced from the technical requirements of professional tattooing.

Emphasis must also be placed on the requirement of entrants to obtain the current industry standard cross contamination certification. It is recognised that QLD's state health guidelines currently require tattooists to obtain this important certification in order to practice. However, this certification is not required to gain licensure.

#### Use of Registration schemes – state to state recognition of licenses

Establishing state-to-state recognition of licensing is understood to be a complex process and one that may need further development through the cooperation of regulating agencies within the various states in the future.

A registration scheme requires an individual to list their name and other information in an official register if they wish to participate in a particular occupation or industry.





The information contained in a register may be open to all people,

restricted to certain people, and/or only available for inspection for certain purposes.

Registration schemes have the ability to be used to facilitate the sharing of information between agencies in different jurisdictions.

Registration schemes may be an appropriate, cost-effective regulatory tool for agencies to employ when looking to implement a method by which professional tattoo artists may travel between states for employment and/or to facilitate the important element of the conferencing of information and knowledge that exists within the culture of the industry.

A registration scheme may operate in lieu of a licensing regime. Alternatively, a more complex registration scheme may operate in a very similar way to a licensing regime.

The benefits of a registration scheme may include:

- low-cost barriers to the entry of organised crime groups into lawful occupations and industries—group members may not be prepared to have their details entered on a register
- the creation of a business environment that is less conducive to the entry of organised crime groups, by making information about industry participants easily available to the public
- the ability of licensed industry participants to travel regularly to other regulated states without having to be burdened by license application processes and restrictions

*(see attachment – ATG Submission)*





### Use of Registration schemes for new entrants to industry

Generally, a registration scheme is one of the least intensive ways of regulating entry into an occupation or industry. In the event of appropriate pre conditions for licensure being implemented, with full licensure being only accessible to qualified professional tattooists, industry trainees may potentially be listed on a register until fully qualified for entry.

Thus allowing trainees authorisation to be present on premises whilst ensuring that untrained individuals are not performing the work of qualified tattooists. Full licensure could potentially be dependent on the "signing off" of a traineeship by a licensed tattooist.

Agencies may also look to the development of oral or written exams for entrants.

The additional benefits of a registration scheme for agencies are the creation of low-cost barriers to the entry of organised crime groups into industry as previously mentioned. Further barriers are also created to potential entrants who are not genuine.

### Group based exclusions

It is understood that one possible benefit of group-based license exclusions is some reduction in costs and burdens on regulators.

A person will be automatically excluded from one or several occupations or industries without the need for the regulator to examine other, perhaps more resource-intensive, licensing criteria.

A consequence of this perceived benefit is: group-based exclusions may create a considerable barrier to employment for people subject to anti-association laws. It is understood and well known within the tattoo industry that several accomplished, nationally and internationally recognised Australian tattooists have or are currently employed by OMG owned studios.



### Rules relating to the effective control of a business

Through our organisations recent work we have examined other regulatory regimes that require the licensee to be in effective control of the relevant business.

Effective control requirements aim to ensure that the licensee is the person who actually conducts, controls and obtains the financial benefit from the business. In the absence of such requirements, organised crime groups may attempt to obtain a license under the cover of an intermediary or proxy, and then exercise effective control over the business once the license has been granted. This type of requirement is perceived to offer benefits to industry.

### License duration and renewal requirements

It is understood that the duration of licenses and requirements for the renewal of licenses may affect the degree to which occupation or industry participants are monitored.

However, due to the intensive scrutiny employed for entry under current regimes the need for ongoing monitoring seems to diminish.

Long license periods, which are perceived to create additional monitoring requirements due to fewer opportunities to scrutinize incumbents, should be adopted due to the stringent scrutiny of applicants at entry.

Relatively short license periods may reduce monitoring requirements for agencies but they increase costs for legitimate incumbents as well as other burdens due to the arduous process currently required.

It is not clear why current legislation does not provide for individuals who have already been scrutinized by QLD police agencies and approved for licensure must re submit all forms of identification including finer and palm prints.

*(see- ATG Submission)*



### Models of compliance monitoring

The effectiveness of the use of inspection based monitoring by QLD police is difficult to ascertain. Whilst inspection based monitoring is required and viewed as necessary for routine council health inspections it is not perceived to be of any benefit to police or other agencies when attempting to detect/ monitor organised crime groups.

The current regulatory regime provides powers for both QLD police and the DFT to conduct investigations to obtain information that is relevant to the activities conducted under a license.

It is perceived that resources would be more effectively used through a complaints based model, which places fewer demands on the regulator than an inspection-based model.

It is thought that a reactive type model, which relies on other occupation participants, consumers or other people making a complaint, would be of more benefit to agencies than inspection based monitoring.

### Prohibited practices

Anticipating the behavior of organized crime groups within industry and focusing on preventing or detecting that behavior is thought to be of benefit to both industry and the general public.

The prohibition of certain practices may assist in this respect.

For example:

- using physical force and or undue harassment/coercion
- doing or threatening to do any act that may intimidate a person or a member of that person's family.

If a person uses physical force, undue harassment or coercion within



the operation of a tattoo business, that person may then be prohibited from participation within industry.

#### Record-keeping obligations

Current requirements for record keeping as outlined within legislation place unnecessary burden on industry participants.

Whilst it is understood that the strict enforcement of these obligations may be an important tool in preventing or hindering the supply of goods to or from organised crime groups, the use of this tool for said purpose is not discerned to have relevance to the tattoo industry.

Professional tattooists predominantly choose to source equipment and supplies from reputable supply companies both in Australia and off shore.

Tattoo operators already have extensive obligations to Health Departments to maintain the upkeep of client consent forms and records/ autoclave running sheets/ equipment maintenance and procedural logs.

These obligations are in addition to ATO financial transaction record keeping requirements for operators and contractors.

If it is a reality that small operations of drug distribution is occurring through random tattoo studios it is thought to be highly unlikely that these individuals will be retaining evidence of these dealing within the business records, and that any business suspect of money laundering is subject to the scrutiny and jurisdiction of Australian Tax Law.

#### Continuous disclosure obligations

Current legislation employs the use of continuous disclosure obligations that require licensed business operators to report new events to regulators - such as licensed tattooists leaving employment of the business, and new contractors working for the



operator.

It is understood that continuous disclosure obligations may assist in circumstances where organised crime groups seek to associate with an existing authorised person in a lawful industry and make use of this person as an intermediary in criminal conduct.

This is perceived to be of little relevance to the large majority of current industry participants. It is also perceived that the use of this tool places burden not only on industry but also on the regulator to ensure that these obligations are complied with.

#### Detection of unauthorised participants

Monitoring regimes may seek to prevent organised crime groups as well as amateur operators, who currently pose a major problem for both professional tattooists and the general public alike from operating without authorisation in industry.

Regulators - through current legislation have been provided with extensive investigative powers for the purpose of detecting people who are operating without a necessary license, including powers that relate to the inspection of premises and the obtaining of documents and information.

Further regulatory tools that may discourage people from operating without the necessary license include:

- requiring a license holder to produce their license document for inspection by customers
- declaring that a person is not entitled to retain or recover monies obtained or earned through unlicensed activity
- empowering courts to freeze the bank accounts of unauthorised occupation or industry participants
- creating criminal sanctions for individuals operating without license or in premises not registered by council
- making it an offence for a person to be found in unlicensed or proscribed premises without lawful excuse



### Information sharing for the purpose of regulation

Access to information is critical for the effective use of many of the regulatory tools described throughout this report. For example, regulators need to access information to determine whether a person is fit and proper to hold a license. Lack of access to information could lead to unsuitable people gaining entry to an occupation or industry.

Equally, difficulties in accessing information could cause unreasonable delays in processing applications - even of fit and proper persons - or result in applications of suitable people being refused, as has been the case in QLD.

It may be necessary to improve information sharing between government agencies in order to prevent the infiltration of lawful occupations and industries by organised crime groups.

Solutions to any information-sharing problems in QLD will have to take into account the specific issues in this jurisdiction, including the fact that:

Information about people is held and used by a range of government agencies. This may lead to a duplication of work where a person is being investigated by, or is making applications to, more than one agency. In the absence of near-perfect information sharing, it is also likely to lead to different information being available to different agencies.

Information may be held by agencies in various Australian jurisdictions. Relevant information about a person or organisation may be confidential (for example, information held by a police force may be operationally sensitive).

Even where information is shared, the time and cost of seeking information from agencies in different jurisdictions may be considerable

Some of these issues may be dealt with through the creation of a single, centralised agency that collates and assesses probity-related



information, at either a Queensland or Commonwealth level, similar to the BIBOB Bureau.

Another possibility may be the creation of a single, open-source database for regulators that holds information gathered in the course of regulatory activities, subject to necessary restrictions and/ or security clearances.

### Protections for people affected by decisions of the regulator

Regulators have considerable powers to restrict entry into the tattoo industry. The exercise of these powers may limit employment and business opportunities of prospective participants.

The rights of these people are currently not protected by administrative law measures such as rights to obtain reasons for the decision and rights of review.

In conjunction with Civil Liberties Australia the ATG submit that administrative decision-making must be open to judicial review.

(see- CLA accompaniment submission)

### Anti-money laundering laws

The concealment or laundering of the proceeds of crime appears to be one of the perceived purposes of organised crime group infiltration of tattoo industry. Anti-money laundering laws may therefore help make certain business types and professional facilitators less attractive to organised crime groups.

### Conclusion

Within this report we have looked to identify some of the regulatory tools that are available to agencies that are perceived to offer positive outcomes for both government and industry. Our organisation will continue to look at other jurisdictions and mechanisms in an attempt to gain a clear understanding of what future outcomes can be achieved for our industry.



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*The ATG continue to conduct research into licensing regimes for the tattoo industry being used in other jurisdictions outside of Australia in order to identify elements within regimes currently in use, which are perceived to offer benefits to both industry and government. It is hoped that the QLD government will continue to develop ongoing dialogue with the ATG in order for this information to be put to practical use in the future.*

*This report has been developed as an accompaniment to the ATG Submission – Licensing and Regulation of the Tattoo Industry in Australia and reflects the recent work the organisation has undertaken in association with the Victorian Law reform Commission and Civil Liberties Australia. The ATG would like to thank CLA, VLRC and the national community of Professional Tattooists for supporting both the research and the content of this report.*





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## DUTY OF CARE STATEMENT



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## DUTY OF CARE STATEMENT

Duty of care is an important prerequisite in negligence cases, as the duty of care must exist and must have been breached for negligence to occur. As a result, breach of the duty of care, if resulting in an injury, may subject a tattooist to legal liability.

By virtue of their education and competencies, tattooists hold themselves out to the public as having specialised knowledge, training and skills. As such, society has expectations of tattooists to meet specific professional standards when providing their services.

Professional practice guidelines, such as those outlined in this document, offer information and direction to assist tattooists in making informed decisions regarding their accountabilities in specific practice situations. These guidelines support professional judgment and permit flexible decision-making in practice. This document is intended to be used as a guide and does not provide all the answers or foresee every possible situation.

Duty of care' is a legal term used to describe the obligation imposed on individuals requiring that they exercise a reasonable standard of care while providing services. In order for a duty of care to arise there must be a sufficient relationship between a tattooist and client. For example, a tattooist-client relationship is established the moment a tattooist engages in the application of a tattoo with a client. Once this relationship is established, the tattooist is held to a standard of care that is established through training, experience and education.



## INTRODUCTION

In practice, a Duty of Care means that all tattooists and studio staff, collectively and individually, have a responsibility to take reasonable steps to ensure clients are:

- Safe
- Consenting
- Unharmd
- Protected from abuse
- Informed of any potential side effects and risks
- Receive a standard of care and treatment that is evidence based
- Receive a quality of care and treatment that complies with the profession's specific and generic standards of practice.

The Australian Tattooists Guild has identified the following criteria for registered/licensed tattooists to consider in regards to their obligations to provide care in an emergency situation:

- The significance of the risk to the person/client if the tattooist does not assist
- Whether the tattooists intervention is directly relevant to preventing harm
- Whether the tattooists care will probably prevent harm
- Receive a standard of care and treatment that is evidence based
- Whether the benefit of the tattooists' intervention outweighs harms the tattooist might incur and does not present more than an acceptable risk to the tattooist.

The provision of professional tattooists care does not, however, include working in situations where a tattooist health is at risk because an employer has not provided adequate protective resources. Refusals to work should be handled by an employer in accordance with the Australian Tattooists Guild ("ATG"). Employers should explore the reasons for an employee's refusal to work and respond appropriately to legitimate concerns. The ATG may help its members identify factors which contribute to safe work environments and advocate for change if shortcomings in safety persist.



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## RECORDS OF SERVICES

Every tattooist shall retain a record of the name, address and age of every customer and date tattooed (and any other information required by the Commissioner) and shall report any information as the commissioner shall determine.

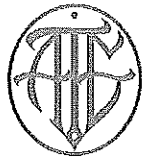
## HEALTH EMERGENCY

From time to time clients may experience adverse reactions to the tattoo process. A health emergency is considered to be in effect as soon as the tattooist recognizes that the client is displaying symptoms beyond the client's control that adversely effect the tattoo procedure. While there is an expectation that registered/licensed tattooists will provide clients with safe, competent and ethical care, (including during an emergency) and absorb a certain amount of risk in doing so, there is not an expectation that registered/licensed tattooists will place themselves at unnecessary risk during a health emergency. There are situations in which it may be acceptable for a registered/licensed tattooist to withdraw or refuse care. 'Unreasonable burden' is a concept raised in relation to the duty to provide care and withdrawing from providing or refusing to provide care. An unreasonable burden may exist when a tattooist's ability to provide safe care and meet professional standards of practice is compromised by unreasonable expectations, lack of resources, or ongoing threats to personal well-being.

## AFTERCARE

After the procedure has been completed, every tattooist shall provide his/her customer with written instructions on the proper care of the tattooed skin.

Tattoos are a fresh wound, and as such are susceptible to infection. Tattooists should be able to recognise symptoms and recommend that the client seek professional healthcare advice as soon as possible.



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## COMPLETION OF WORK

Once care of a client has been accepted and work has commenced, all tattooists have an ethical responsibility to continue to provide care for the length of the tattoo. Tattooists must maintain their fitness to practice. If they are aware that they do not have the necessary physical, mental or emotional capacity to practice safely and competently, they should postpone provisions of service until an agreed upon time, or withdraw from the provision of service after consulting with their employer or, if they are self-employed, arranging that someone else attend to their clients.

## ASSIGNMENTS IN RELATION TO COMPETENCE

Tattooists are not obligated to provide services beyond their level of competence. However, rather than refusing an assignment related to perceived lack of competence, a tattooist should negotiate the work assignment with her/his employer, based on the tattooists individual scope of practice and competencies. It is worth remembering that every tattooist has basic entry-level (basic standard cross-contamination) competencies that are to be applied in any practice setting.

Tattooists have an obligation to inform clients when they are asked to deliver care/services beyond their level of competence or personal scope of the tattooing practice. It is important for tattooists to recognise when they have passed the limits of their knowledge, skills and/or judgment, and to know when and where to request assistance or additional education or training. The refusal of an assignment in an unfamiliar practice setting is justified when the risk of harm to a client is greater by accepting the assignment than by refusing.



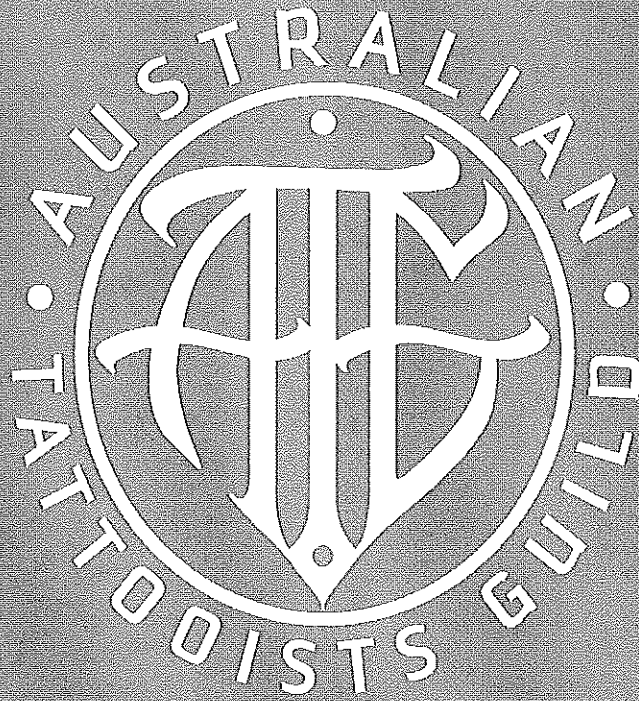
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## TATTOOIST'S ACCOUNTABILITIES

In order to fulfill their duty to provide care/services, tattooists have a right to receive accurate and complete information from their employer. They must also be supported in meeting their own health needs. Employers have a reciprocal duty to protect and support tattooists as well as to provide necessary and sufficient protective equipment and supplies that will "maximally minimize risk" to tattooists and other studio employees.

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# CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT



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## CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The Australian Tattooists Guild (ATG) Code of Professional Conduct is based on principles of fairness, respect, integrity and responsibility. This code is a voluntary code which is self regulated by each signatory of this organisation. Ideally, this code can be used effectively in evaluation as a measure of quality, along with the Duty of Care statement.

### INTRODUCTION

The Australian Tattooists Guild and its members are dedicated to the advancement of tattooing through involved and innovative practice, with the aim of raising and maintaining all standards of the tattooing industry across Australia.

Tattooists who are ATG members commit themselves to the attainment of high standards in tattooing, and to maintain general wellbeing by upholding commonly agreed values of:

- Ethical behaviour;
- Equality of opportunity;
- Social justice;
- Aspiration to excellence, and
- Competent professional performance

They are expected to:

- Serve and advance the public interest through appropriate involvement in civic activities, as citizens and professionals;
- Encourage informal public debate on tattoo, art, and health issues;
- Encourage and maintain responsible and healthy work space and;
- Strive to contribute to the development of tattoo knowledge, culture and education.

In their professional lives, members of the ATG are bound by this Code of Conduct to uphold the integrity of the profession and to ensure client and community needs are respected and well served. The code establishes principles to which ATG members are required to conform. The code defines ethical standards to ensure the upholding of principles that address obligations to the public, the client, the profession, and colleagues.



Violation of any of these standards is grounds for disciplinary action, the potential consequences of which are detailed in the Guild's Constitution.

The Code of Professional Conduct of the ATG applies to all activities by its members in which tattooing is a component. It is intended to promote committed and responsible performance in tattooing and to ensure that the profession will acknowledge and meet the responsibility vested in it by the public.

## PRINCIPLE 1

### OBLIGATIONS TO THE PUBLIC

Members have obligations to the public to embrace the spirit and letter of the laws governing their professional affairs, and should thoughtfully consider the social, emotional and health impact of their professional activities.

- I) Members must neither communicate nor promote themselves or their professional services in a false, misleading or deceptive manner.
- II) Members must uphold the law in the conduct of their professional activities.
- III) Members must abide by the code of ethics and conduct of the ATG and laws enforced in the countries and jurisdictions in which they provide or intend to provide professional services.
- IV) Members must not be affiliated with any criminal organisation.
- V) Members must not use any form of persuasion or undue influence in securing and delivering services.
- VI) Members must refrain from physical contact that endangers, threatens, or harms the health or safety of any person, or behaviour that causes a reasonable person to fear such conduct.
- VII) Members must ascertain proof of age and identity to ensure the client is of age (see state laws regarding minors and tattoo age). Members must not tattoo minors under any circumstances.
- VIII) Members must not sell tattoo equipment to unlicensed or unprofessional persons, through an established supply company or privately



## PRINCIPLE 2

### OBLIGATIONS TO THE CLIENT

Members have obligations to their clients to carry out their professional work conscientiously, competently and in a professional manner. Members should exercise judgment with due regard to relevant technical and professional standards when performing all professional services. Learned and professional judgment should take precedence over any other motive in the pursuit of the art, craft and business of tattooing.

- I) Members must perform their professional work with due skill, care and diligence.
- II) Members must carry out their professional work without undue delay and, so far it is within their powers, within an agreed reasonable time limit.
- III) Members must keep their client informed of the progress of work undertaken on the client's behalf and any issues that may affect its quality or cost.
- IV) Members must disclose to clients significant circumstances known to them that could be construed as creating a conflict of interest, and must ensure that such conflict does not compromise the legitimate interests of such persons or interfere with the tattooist's duty to render impartial judgment in relation to services rendered.
- V) Members must at all times afford clients respect and equanimity, eschewing judgment and accepting differences in beliefs, values and perception.
- VI) Members must offer services to all persons irrespective of their ethnicity, age (tattooing of minors excluded), gender, religious or political persuasion. In engaging with others in tattooing work, artists should strive to create a climate of equality and openness in the client-professional relationship.
- VII) Members must communicate about tattooing sessions, offering clients a clear and concise description of what tattoo sessions involve and especially with respect to possible effects [focal and side effects] and professional fees.
- VIII) Members must be appraised of and utilize at all times the requirements of duty of care in all aspects of the relationship with clients. This includes attending to client needs prior to, during and post-sessions. Duty of care is or will be described both in state and federal legislation as well as in policy statements. See Australian Tattooists' Duty of Care Statement.
- IX) Members must ensure clients are aware of any potential effects on their health from the tattoo process should their current health be compromised by an existing condition which has been disclosed to the member. Members must not tattoo a client who is intoxicated.
- X) The services that a member delivers should be of a kind that preserves the dignity and autonomy of the client and in no way sully the privacy, physical, sexual, financial or psychological integrity of the client.



## PRINCIPLE 3

### OBLIGATIONS TO THE PROFESSION

Members have an obligation to uphold the integrity and dignity of the profession, and must in every circumstance conduct themselves in a manner that respects the legitimate rights and interests of others.

- I) Members must pursue their professional activities with honesty and fairness.
- II) Members must not take as a co-owner an unsuitable person such as: a person whose name has been removed from any ATG recognised register of tattooist otherwise than at his or her own request; a person disqualified from membership pursuant to the standards and process prescribed in the ATG's constitution; a person who is prescribed under current state legislation as a person or persons of a criminal organisation (or associate).
- III) Members must establish and maintain:
  - a) Adequate professional premises which are of appropriate size and facilities so as to optimise the delivery of services and maintenance of privacy.
  - b) Premises should embody standard occupational health and safety provisions as well as conforming to local fire and health department standards.
  - c) Care should be taken to ensure the public wellbeing whilst in professional tattoo premises, which can be hazardous at times. Particular care should be taken when allowing children in the premises.
  - d) Tattoo premises should be a sterile environment. Any outside elements that threatens the sterility of the tattoo premises, such as animals entering the premises should not be tolerated.
  - e) Appropriate written materials which describe the services offered and the fees required.
  - f) Records of client details and sessions in a form which is easily recoverable and which conforms to professional standards. These records should be safely stored and contained within the framework of confidentiality.



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## PRINCIPLE 4

### OBLIGATIONS TO COLLEAGUES

Members have an obligation to respect and acknowledge the professional aspirations and contributions of their colleagues.

- I) Members must not discriminate on grounds of race, religion, disability, marital status, or gender.
- II) Members must not maliciously or unfairly criticise or attempt to discredit another tattooist of their work.
- III) Members must, if approached to undertake a piece for which it is known, or should reasonably be known, that another tattooist is currently working on or preparing for, request for the client to notify the other tattooist.
- IV) Members must provide their associates and employees with a suitable working environment, compensate them fairly, and facilitate their professional development.
- V) Members must not claim ownership of another tattooist's original design of published work through direct and obvious reproduction of said work.

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## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

The following statements have been provided to the ATG to highlight the ongoing issues that are being experienced as a consequence of the current licensing regime in QLD for participants within the Tattoo Industry.

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Gold Coast Tattoo, QLD

Since the licensing came into affect the biggest change has been the opening of a lot of new tattoo studios, a lot of these studios are from people who are not tattooers and have no idea about the industry at all, and are using it for nothing more than to make money. They are hiring unqualified tattooers people who cannot even draw. These are people (mostly young kids) who now have the right to obtain a licence for tattooing without even having to do an apprenticeship or be taught by another professional tattooer. All that is needed to successfully tattoo another person and mark them for life properly and safely. There are shops on the coast that these persons are hiring these kids and calling them apprentices handing them machines and letting them tattoo with no training. Also these apprentices are then given apprentices under them as long as they have a tattoo license.

This is leading tattooing into bad territory, bad tattoos, using inferior equipment which can lead to bad reactions, infections, scaring and worse.

These people would have never been hired and brought into the tattoo industry to put customers at risk if the new licensing wasn't so easy to obtain.

The more studios opening and hiring new people to tattoo is also forcing some professional tattooers to lower their cost because these others are cutting prices in half! One shop near skin fx was doing 13 dollar tattoos!!

We have over 50+ tattoo studios on the coast. And that number is growing fast!

We have had police march into our studios on many occasions with(4-7) officers at a time demanding our papers asking the same questions they asked last time, we had police come into our studio during schoolies,



## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

our staff were all busy, they demanded our body piercer stop piercing and supply them with what they needed. She had to stop half way through the piercing and get all the info for the police.

This does damage to our business every time they come in. We lose customers and who knows what they say to others, makes us look like criminals!

Renewal of licensing has come up for some of our tattooers they had to go through all the bullshit again. Photos, fingerprints etc.

I didn't know that fingerprints changed?

The worst part is when getting finger prints done it is nearly impossible, having to wait up to a week and taking time off work to do so to fit in with their 1 officer that does that job.

Makes it even harder when you can only have them done at 1 police station for the whole coast as well.

The funny thing is even the police think it's ridiculous!

No studios have been closed (OMGS) and ones that are still open have "sold" them to relatives or apprentices.

It really frustrates us all here as when we want questions answered and ask advice from police they say they have no idea what they are doing or know what is going on with any of it.

Tattooers have been left with no real knowing of what to do with filling out the proper forms and all that is demanded of us.

I think some sort of training? Should have been in place to show us what was expected of us. Not being told no that's wrong here's a ridiculous fine for forgetting a date.







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[REDACTED]  
Whiskey Lane Tattoo Company  
Gold Coast, QLD

To whom it may confer,

Recently we have had some troubles regarding and overseas artist. He came to Australia under a year open working visa. Being approved and paid for, he arrived in Queensland, Australia, only then to be informed of these new laws.

He applied for a Queensland tattooing licence, once again, was approved.

Now, under Section 7 (i think) in the legislation, he is only allowed to work in two shops for a month each, so a maximum of 2 out of 12 months, even though his Australian working visa is allowed for year. With any other industry the applicant is allowed to work for a 6 months for the same employer.

Id like this to be put forward as it making it incredibly hard for overseas artists to come work in this state and therefor minimising exposure for artists themselves, tattoo studios and the industry in general.

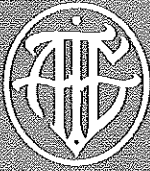
I have emailed and called the licensing board regarding this, but only to be told its in the legislation and there is nothing no one can do. Even if he was to work in a shop, without pay, he would still be fined.

Also, Im sure your aware of the difficulties involved in travelling between states as the licences are not recognised between neighbouring states. I don't understand why this is an issue as other industries can legally travel interstate on a working licence.

I feel this legislation has been rushed through with no concern for the working tattooer.

Thank you and kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Whiskey Lane Tattoo Company  
Gold Coast  
[REDACTED]



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*The Painted Lady Tattoo Studio*

*Holland Park, Brisbane.*

*Private, licensed boutique studio. Open 7 days by appointment.*

16/8/15 To whom it may concern,

Owning and operating a tattoo studio in Queensland with the new licensing laws has been a difficult issue. I have no problem with the paper work; however I do not see how the high fees are justified? Over \$2000 for a 3 year license for an operator! The biggest issue I am facing is having to complete all the same paper work, get the same documents witnessed by a jp and make time to go to a police station (of which there are only a couple in Brisbane with specific opening times) to get fingerprinted – again! I do not understand why I have been granted a license and now have to reapply – surely just a renewal letter with payment should be enough?

As well as this license fee we also pay a local city council annual one – not sure how this money is justified either? And why is there



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not just 1 application and fee – why two different government bodies hitting us for money?

If the real issue is to stop organised crime surely the police check is enough – why the high fees? What do we get for our

money? This is also a huge issue for our tattoo artists who are struggling with the annual fee and also the inconvenience of a huge amount of paper work, provided witnessed documents and fingerprints – again and again!

We have had no international or interstate artists wanting to tattoo in Queensland now as they deem the paperwork too difficult and the fees too expensive and the amount of time they are actually allowed to tattoo too little. We are missing out of valuable creative art experiences these talented people could be providing to our industry.

I hope to see some common sense prevail shortly.

Yours in frustration,

 The Painted Lady Tattoo Studio



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[REDACTED]  
Rock of Ages Tattoo Parlour

[REDACTED]  
Lennox Head NSW 2478

To whom it may concern.

My name is [REDACTED], I am a tattooist and studio owner in Lennox Head, Northern NSW. I have been a professional tattoo artist for just over 24 years. I pay my taxes and I vote conscientiously.

I have been a licensed tattoo artist in NSW since July 2013, the first artist in NSW to be licensed. I am also President of the Australian Tattooists Guild. I am a firm believer in reform within our industry, and I think regulation is an important part of the job being recognised as a legitimate trade and career. When I first heard about the new legislation I was hopeful, but upon reading it I was very disappointed that the opportunity for a real license had been completely overlooked by legislators and the distinct lack of industry consultation was very obvious.

The license cannot legitimately be called a tattoo license in any real sense as the act of tattooing itself has not been scrutinised within the process of application, and no real effort is made to ensure the applicant knows anything at all about the trade. The potential for real physical harm through amateur applicants being licensed is enormous. The arrogance of legislators who obviously have no idea what the trade requires in terms of skill sets or technical knowledge is very apparent.

The opportunity was lost for the health dept to ensure all licensed tattoo artists have current cross-contamination knowledge in order to protect public health. This is a major concern for the industry, particularly with amateur applicants easily obtaining a license.

I was very lucky to have my fingerprints taken in a regional police station and was not turned away on the day because there was someone in the holding cell. This was not the case for many of my colleagues, and in some circumstances some were turned away



numerous times before they could get their fingerprints recorded. Many police stations within the larger cities like Sydney simply refused to take the records for the applicants. It's a ridiculous waste of police resources and taxpayers money.

Needless to say, there has been no real indication that the fingerprinting has been used for any real action in the way of prosecuting OMCG members, and it's ridiculous that someone who draws on people for a living has to have their fingerprints recorded on a national database, despite no criminal conviction. We do not carry weapons, we are not responsible for people's life savings. It's quite simply a breach of civil rights.

As there are no real qualifying aspects to the tattoo license in regard to technical knowledge, the need to re-apply for a license rather than have one renewed is again a massive waste of police resources and taxpayers money, as well as creating longer processing times. Fingerprints don't change, and surely the point system for identification purposes is adequate. A national passport can be acquired without fingerprinting, why on earth should a tattooist have to be fingerprinted a SECOND time?

The tattoo industry worldwide has long had a culture of information sharing through 'guest artist' spots - whereupon an artist will travel to a studio in another city/state/country in order to share technical information and collaborate artistically. It's essentially the same as an artists 'residency', and has played a very large part in the large evolution of the trade within the last 10-20 years. The licensing system as it now exists makes it almost impossible and as such is hindering the ability of Australian (NSW and QLD) artists to maintain standards on an international level. Australia has long been known as a place of high artistic and technical standards within the international tattooing industry and this is now at risk due to the limitations of visiting artists.

Our studio used to have at least 5-10 artist residencies from travelling artists a year, and since the introduction of the new licensing system we've had none at all. This is a real loss for our studio as clients look for international artists guesting as a real indication of professional enterprises, and it maintains a sense of artistic diversity within the industry.

I hate to say it, but I personally feel that the way these laws have been approached is so incredibly ignorant and a real reflection of the way bureaucracy in Australia views art in general - 'it's ok, it's just not that



# AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

important'. It's such an incredible shame that one small part of the cultural and artistic diversity of this country has been shackled the way that it has. I, for one, will continue to strive for the changes within the legislation that will enable the hard working Australian men and women within this industry to continue their careers without unnecessary barriers and breaches of civil liberties, and enable them to contribute to the Australian national identity and diverse artistic culture in the way they can.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Seventh Circle Studio,  
Woolloongabba QLD

To whom it may concern in regards to possible amendments to the Tattoo Parlours Bill as part of the VLAD act.

My name is [REDACTED], and I am an honest, hardworking, fully licensed Queensland tattooer wishing to express my concerns at the truly ridiculous laws which have been forced upon our trade in recent years.

The Australian Tattooist's guild has already presented on many occasions the flaws and oversights in these laws, and I hope that these points will be considered, as well as the points of personal experience which I will add below.

I have worked for Seventh Circle Studio in Woolloongabba QLD for over five years, and as a direct result of the licensing laws, the amount of interstate and international guest artists has



gone from over ten per year to ZERO since the laws were introduced. This is a massive drop in potential business for us, as well as extremely disappointing to our clients and resident artists who used to look forward to having new faces in the studio.

The reason potential guest artists are avoiding QLD (and why I myself have avoided working in NSW) is that the application process is lengthy, invasive, expensive, embarrassing and unnecessarily complicated, involving a large fee, multiple trips interstate to be fingerprinted, photographed, then again to collect said license at an undetermined time, provided it is granted.

Once taxes, accomodation and transport are accounted for, it is simply no longer profitable or worth the trouble of going to work interstate for 1-2 weeks at a time, let alone for overseas artists to attempt to apply for a license.

If the licensing system made more sense and was streamlined to allow for application via correspondence and co-operation between the QLD and NSW Government agencies and Police Service, perhaps we would once again have artists visiting our studio.

The free exchange of art, ideas, technical skills and trade information across borders by inviting guest artists to work in studios for a short period of residency has been a long-standing tradition in the tattoo industry. It is one that has been stifled by these laws, and we wish to regain the ability to do this with ease and without fear.

The other point I would like to raise is the complete lack of a renewal process for our licenses once they expire. This requires





all tattooers to completely re-apply for licenses every 1-3 years, subjecting us to the same invasive police checks, the same ID and background checks, and to present to a police station to be fingerprinted once again, even though our fingerprints are, very obviously, the same.

The lack of provision for renewal is a blatant oversight and a true concern for us. I know from personal experience that receiving my license the first time took well over six months from application, and was marred by errors and issues from the staff at OFT, requiring countless phonecalls to resolve. To then be told, only a few short months later that I will have to repeat the entire process is stressful and disheartening.

As of this date I have reapplied for my license, but I am afraid the process will be struck with the same errors, resulting in me being unlicensed for a period of time while I wait for OFT and QPS to address the issue. This is deeply concerning to me, as the fines for working unlicensed are absolutely crippling, and I feel as if the date I eventually receive my second license is out of my control, despite having done the right thing.

I hope that these issues are taken into account and amendments can be made to the current laws and application processes to make it easier for hard-working and honest tattooers to comply with government regulations without further stress, financial hardship or hindrance.

Sincerest thanks for your time,

[REDACTED]

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██████████  
Black Throne  
Paddington, Brisbane, QLD

My name is ██████████ and I have been tattooing for 19 years and I am an owner/operator of Black Throne Tattoo in Paddington, Brisbane , Queensland.

The tattoo laws have affected my business and my career in the following ways:

There is no licence renewal plan , therefore for my employees or myself to renew a licence we have to go through the entire licencing process again, including fingerprinting. This is not only impractical but very time consuming. Interstate guest artists are not wanting to come to QLD to work because of the need for an entirely new licence which many find too costly. This has affected our usual flow of guest artists which impacts learning and networking opportunities and the profile of the shop.

International artists are also avoiding working in QLD due to the extensive forms they need to fill out which entail numerous questions that some artists find to be intrusive and unnecessary.

The close association section of the license is invasive as it includes people such as landlords, cleaners and accountants who are required to fill out forms and provide 100 points of identification , which many are reluctant to do. This creates a stigma around tattoo shops and proprietors.

██████████

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██████████  
Brisbane, QLD

My name is ██████████ and I am a licensed tattooer based in Brisbane. My experience with applying for and holding a tattoo license has been nothing but detrimental to me and by no means helped the industry in any way that I have seen. I won't go into details as I don't necessarily have the answers but I do believe that the Australian Tattooist Guild need to be consulted and listened to in regards to reviewing the laws and making changes so that if the industry is going to be governed that they might have a chance of doing it in a way that promotes clean and sterile practice's and good tattoos!

██████  
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██████████  
Hammer & Forge Tattoo  
Mount Isa, QLD

To whom it may concern,  
My name is ██████████. I own and tattoo at Hammer & Forge Tattoo in Mount Isa, QLD. My experience with the OFT and the QLD Police has been lacklustre at best. I applied and paid for my license very early on, around March 2014. The payment came out almost immediately. Visits from local police also began, and although they were polite, it was clear every visit was a fact finding mission, with all questions posed to us relating to CMGs and nothing, ever, to do with tattooing. If the numerous visits from local officers wasn't enough, I had to then present myself to the police station to speak with an officer from Brisbane via teleconference, who similarly asked questions relating to my knowledge of CMGs and little else. The only question I was asked which related directly to tattooing was thrown in as an afterthought, and was something like 'what makes you a tattoo artist'? Arbitrary at best. Any contact we made with the OFT was a confusing and frustrating affair. At times my 'file' was not locatable, and the status of my application was awaiting police input, even though it was months since I'd spoken with both locals and Brisbane officers, and had also provided my prints (which I now need to do again when I re-apply?!). This whole time, we actually did have a huge amount of bullying from local CMG members, which both police and OFT could do little about, and in fact we felt like bait at times. Ultimately we were asked to journal any incidents with CMG and provide this to police who often pressured us to lay charges.

In any case, any and all focus was on our CMG links, and not our trade at all. No one looked at work, checked our council health license or TAFE Certs. We did get a shop licence, almost 12 months to the day after applying, and we are not looking forward to doing it again.

On a side note, I also have a degree in fine art from QCA, a diploma of art from Bremer Inst. TAFE and a degree in secondary education. I taught john school art for around 7 years before doing my Tattoo apprenticeship. At the time of applying, I remained a registered teacher in qld.

██████████

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AUSTRALIAN  
TATTOOISTS  
GUILD

██████████  
Brisbane QLD

To whom it may concern,  
I am writing in advocacy of the Australian Tattooist Guild of Australia.  
Please accept this impact statement regarding my disappointment with the legislation and practices in place for the current Tattoo Parlours Act. The application process is not only questionably invasive bordering on a breach of my private information it is also too expensive and therefore discouraging for domestic and international traveling artists to acquire the correct documentation. I don't believe there should be ongoing maintenance fees for simple acts such as address updates and there should be the suitable links provided via the mygov website to have better access to my registration information and the ability to update it without fees. This registration can sit amongst other government services like Medicare and The Australian Taxation Office etc. If this is a government initiative then my affiliation/association/registration to this government service should include some sort of incentive if only maybe financially encouraging. I prefer that the fee I pay for this affiliation to this government initiative isn't funding further avoidable administration costs for a repetitive application process. Instead the process should be reviewed with the advice and council of representatives such as the Tattooist guild.

As a sole trader and GST payer I believe that submitting this personal impact statement that my voice is being heard by my government and actions will be put in place to review and amend current requirements and improvements are made.

Sincerely

██████████ (Tattoo Artist)



## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

[REDACTED]  
Tama Tattoo  
Victoria

A number of years ago I met my wife in Far North Queensland, I moved up and lived and worked in Cairns for a couple of years at Cairns City Tattoo under [REDACTED] and I became good friends and therefore once my wife and I left to move back to Melbourne we continued to visit Cairns on a regular basis as all her family is there and I could easily work a week or two with [REDACTED] to help offset the cost of travel and time off.

Once this licensing came into the scene it became evident that this was not going to be as easy to do in the future but as it was a must to keep in contact with family I would have to figure it out.

On my last working visit the changes were imminent but there was not much information on how to actually go about receiving a Guest Artist permit, there was limited info online but it was unclear on what I had to do and also unclear on what [REDACTED] had to do as the employer.

Before my next visit I tried again to arrange a permit, when I was doing this I believe the law had not yet come into full effect but I was trying to obtain the permit for a few months ahead when it would be in full effect. I rang the number given on the Queensland government website and got to speak to a lady there and explained the situation she informed me that for someone in my situation (only wanting to work a week) I could get a guest artist permit that was advertised on the website, I said yes but that's for visiting overseas artists and it seemed I couldn't do that being from Victoria. She seemed unsure but looked it up and confirmed that it was just for overseas artists, she then explained that being an Australian resident I would need a full license. I explained that it would seem unnecessary and incredibly hard to get a full license to only work once or twice a year for a week or so and she totally agreed. She asked when I was travelling up and I said in a few months when the law would be in effect and when I explained that I only wanted to work for a week of our 3week stay she asked me "why I really needed to work when I was there?" Her exact words were something like "do you really have to work while your on holiday?" I said I don't "have" to but I



## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

would like to and without going deep into my personal home/financial life that it was a regular thing I did and it made it possible for my family to stay in contact blah blah. She then explained that she really didn't know what was going on with these new laws and it had all just come up quickly so if I waited they would "probably" sort something in the future that could cater to this. I explained that I needed to get it sorted for my trip coming up and to this I was told that it was all so new and quite unorganised that I should just go and work and if I do get caught I could take it to court and would "probably" get off as it was such a new process and they were still working out the "bugs"

To this I just said that it would be insane to put myself through that let alone my boss and friend up there, to have court dates in another state, possible massive fines, possible loss of license to him or denial of a future license to me. To this she said "I doubt that would happen"

She was nice enough and really did try to help me out but really had no decent solid knowledge on this variation to the license.

As most artists know travelling to learn/work between States is and has been common for tattooing for years, some sort of unified license would work otherwise the simple guest artist permit that is already available to overseas artists can just be granted quite easily to ALL artists you'd think?

So despite her solid knowledge on the subject I chose not to risk it on recent trips and am now in the process of getting a Full Queensland tattoo license.

In saying that I was already denied once as I filled the forms in stating I worked at Tama Tattoo (my studio in Melbourne) and was told I didn't need a license to work in Melbourne. I called and said I was aware of that and explained the situation and I was told I would have to fill the forms out as a permanent employee of Cairns City Tattoo. Not sure if this will have implications on me Tax wise? Or even if licensing in Melbourne comes into effect and it turns out I hold a Queensland license will it affect my ability to hold a license in VIC? We'll see I guess?

Good luck to all.

Tama tattoo,  
Melbourne, Australia.



AUSTRALIAN  
TATTOOISTS  
GUILD

[REDACTED]  
Peth, WA

I can't speak to the impact of the tattoo licensing to tattooers who live in Queensland or NSW, but as a tattooer with a clientele spread out over the whole of Australia, tattoo licensing has damaged my ability to reach my clients in two states, as it is not cost effective to spend the time and money travelling back and forward from my home base in Perth to Queensland or NSW to undertake a police review in both of those states and paying an obnoxious fee, just to only tattoo in those states for a month or two out of the year.. I understand that legislators who write these laws don't understand or likely even care about the business or culture of tattooing (evidenced by the repeated attempts to make us out to be criminals or degenerates), but it's important to understand that we're law-abiding taxpayers and voters as well, and so are our clients. All the laws have managed so far is to make it so top tier travelling artists can't visit the state. I would wholeheartedly recommend an affordable national licence available in every state, based more on a system of regulating sanitation and health standards in shops, but I'm under the impression that the licences are more about trying to police morality rather than policing health standards and good business practice to keep people safe.

Thanks for taking the time to read this,  
[REDACTED]

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# AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

[REDACTED]  
Melbourne, VIC

To whom it may concern,

I am a tattooist from Melbourne, Australia, as part of my business practice i travel to other states and countries to do what we call Guest spots. The guest spot is something that was up until now a great part of the tattoo industry. It allowed us as artists and business people to learn and work with other people from around the world as well as have people from around the world come work with us. Also to this integral part of our practice, it enabled customers who followed your work from either interstate or overseas to be tattooed by you. Now that these new licensing laws are in place, this has almost come to a stand still. i am currently in the process of applying for a Qld tattoo license. The process its self has made it non viable from a business point of view, other then the now \$714 license fee, in order for me to tattoo in Qld or Nsw i must first fly to Qld or Nsw in order to have my finger prints and palm prints taken, then simply to return home and wait months for the processing to happen before i can return to that state in order to make any money. and as far as i can tell there is nothing in place for people hoping to travel from other countries. This makes Guest spotting from a business point of view not worth doing. the lack of guest artists and traveling artists will effect not only the tattooing industry as a whole but will effect other business that gain from things like tattoo conventions. Apart from the individual customer coming to get a tattoo from a world famous tattoo artist that they have always admired, money will be lost on the hire of the building in which the convention would have been held, the people hired to build the stands, make and sell the food to cater to tens of thousands of people who would have attended, cleaners paid to clean every night the event is on, as well as the hotels that interstate and international tattooers would have stayed at, restaurants they would have spent there hard earned money in, the effect is more then just the individual person or industry alone.

[REDACTED]





AUSTRALIAN  
TATTOOISTS  
GUILD

[REDACTED]  
Sydney, NSW

There were a few flaws surrounding the New Licensing Laws that affected me and what I think what could affect my future in tattooing. From the technical side of things, applying for the license, the fingerprinting process, the handling of fee's and dealing with the many many people through the process. It was, to put it nicely, not easy and not pleasant. I was spoken to like crap by the police I had to deal with, calling nearly every day for 3 months to go in and ASKING to get my finger prints done, which is frustrating and EMBARRASSING enough. I got the same rude answer everytime, they had no idea what I was talking about and never had the time, i just had to 'get lucky' that no one was in custody. Therefore stretching out of the time bracket to finalise the license with the other half of the process and causing a lot of stress that I would lose my initial money and application.

The other side of the impact is on my personal work and growth in tattooing and my art. I feed off new inspiration and meeting new tattooers and working with them and learning more and therefore my skills and client base expanding. The license I have doesn't cover me to work in Queensland, where I regularly get tattooed and could possible work if my license covered me. So im missing out on both working and expanding my tattooing network. Same goes for if another tattooer would like to come work in Sydney, they are not going to even consider it with how hard or confusing it is with the licensing. It seems to me that it should be a nationwide license, with all the same rules and regulations across Australia. At least, if its something thats here to stay.

[REDACTED]



## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

[REDACTED]  
Green Lotus Tattoo  
Melbourne, VIC

My names is [REDACTED] and I work at Green Lotus Tattoo in Melbourne.  
Last year I was emailed by a studio in NSW to do a guest spot.

In the email it was mentioned that all guest artists would need to have a NSW tattoo licence to do the guest spot and as an incentive the commission was 90% to the artist to combat the price of the licence. I had heard from other artists and shop owners that they were having trouble getting artists to visit since the licensing had come in partly because of the cost but also from the difficulty of trying to obtain a licence.

I did look into getting a licence and filled in the application form but with further research found the difficult part is trying to get the finger printing done, which has to be done at a NSW police station and also that the licence, if you actually get one needs to be picked up from one of the limited amount of location in NSW.

The price of the licence was a big deterrent for me considering that I would have to pay around \$750 for the licence on top of flights, accommodation, supplies and other expensive that go along with working and traveling.

I feel that it is made so difficult to get a licence that most artist would just stay in there own state rather than travel to work with other artists and friends.

[REDACTED]



## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

[REDACTED]  
Seventh Circle Studio,  
Woolloongabba, Queensland

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the owner and operator of Seventh Circle Studio in Woolloongabba, Queensland. I've been tattooing for almost twenty years, and have owned my studio for over 5 of those years.

Since the inception of the Tattoo Parlours Act, my studio and the hardworking people in it have only experienced a NEGATIVE impact from the new legislation. The new laws, and the licensing rigmarole that surrounds this legislation is nothing short of an absolute farce. We are honest, hardworking people, and we spend our days striving for excellence in our craft and in our customer service. It is an affront to everything we work for to be "lumped in" with criminals and outlaw motorcycle clubs, and then to be expected to jump through hoops in order to prove that we are not associated with those people. It is insulting, humiliating, disheartening, and only devalues the years of professionalism that we, as a group, have cultivated. Having members of the QPS walk through my door while we are operating to question me and the people that work there about who they are and who they know is nothing short of embarrassing, and detrimental to our reputations.

Licensing for tattooers is quite agreeable for any professional, provided that the license is material verification of competency, infection control, artistic ability and standards of service. The current licensing scheme doesn't encompass any of those things, but only the association (or lack thereof) to criminal organizations. It's an absolutely disgraceful waste of resources and money, not to mention the laughable nature of the renewal process- telling applicants they have to get fingerprinted for every renewal when their prints obviously don't change is one of the most obscenely stupid pieces of red tape to ever be inflicted onto a group of people. That one piece of legislation demonstrates how flawed the thinking is behind this scheme. ...It's also interesting to note that an applicant to hold a license for a firearm in Queensland is not fingerprinted, but it's necessary if one wishes to hold a license to hold a



## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

tattoo machine. It's astonishing.

One of the most notable things about this legislation is the way it has put a complete halt to the influx of interstate guest artists. The traffic of guest artists through tattoo studios has been an integral part of the sharing of ideas, techniques, social bonds, and information that push our craft forward. In my studio, we went from over ten per year to none, because of the nature of the licensing process. Needless to say, it has a profound effect on the dynamic nature of the studio, and it has had a disastrous effect on the financial state of my business. Additionally- Applying for an interstate license is expensive, requires multiple trips interstate for fingerprinting etc, and the prohibitively slow and obtuse bureaucratic process makes certain we can't have any insight into the progress of an application. This only deters people from even wanting to apply. How does this scheme even benefit the people required to participate? It demonstrably doesn't. It only makes it harder.

I know I'm not alone in suggesting that a national licensing scheme, allowing traffic of artists between studios, would be much more beneficial to all concerned, as long as the license held by tattooers was there to prove competence in all areas of our craft, not to prove that the person holding the license is not a criminal or associated with criminal organizations.

This legislation has been nothing short of Sisyphean in the level of frustration that my peers and I have experienced over the last 18 months or so, and I would wholeheartedly recommend consulting with the committee of the Australian Tattooists Guild for a strong, sensible, level headed and above all, practical approach to the review process. I hope to see a brighter future for our craft in Australia because of it.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

[REDACTED]  
Brisbane, QLD

To whole it may concern

We, [REDACTED] are working under the studio 'Malika Rose' have a few points we would like to address regarding the QLD tattoo licensing laws.

This has dramatically affected our business, not only financially, due to the exorbitant fees, but by affecting the flow of business and thus our family's income. With these laws you have created the fear that the majority of Tattooers are dangerous people and have biker associates. This has given the public uncertainty as to whether they want to be associated with us which has also made a huge impact on our everyday family life. Everyone, from our clients to the parents at our children's schools, are now worried about our characters and the potential ramifications from associating with us. Our children are now scared of the police after having them knock on our door and pull us up for 'checks' on a very heightened level. We are good people with no criminal records and to have our kids feel scared like this directly from the impact of these laws is shameful on our government.

The application in general is outrageous. We have needed to have more checks and security put on us than the people teaching and working with our kids. I do not believe you need our fingerprints nor should you need to know who I have worked for anymore than I have said on my tax forms for the past 10 years.

The renewal proses is something to be thoroughly addressed as you would know our identity and our fingerprints have not, and cannot possibly have, changed in the last 12 months and to ask us to go through the whole process again is not only a waste of our time but a waste of government resources. This also puts an enormous strain on our work time and therefore our income.

The Office of Fair Trading has very limited information about licensing and renewal and they have been little to no help which has meant hours on the phone with no answers in the end. This needs to be addressed now.

We also have the issue that the new license system isn't cross checked



## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

with council licensing therefore we have people licensed who are not council approved. This law I believe was brought in to make the public safer however it has not done so, people are still tattooing who do not understand infection control. This might have stopped a person with a criminal record doing a tattoo but it has not stopped the spread of disease through lack of education. That is on the government. We need to put public health forward here.

Regards

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

QLD

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a tattooer living in QLD. My first hand encounter of the recent Tattoo legislation occurred when I moved up here in December last year, from Melbourne. Melbourne does not have these laws in place, and when I begun my research in preparation for my relocation, I was appalled. I couldn't believe not only the low standard of requirements to gain the license, but the incriminating terms in which I was to gain it. I was literally paying to prove my innocence, to prove I didn't hold any criminal records or association with a motorbike club. For some reason, they were the only terms in which i needed to adhere to become a licensed tattooist. No proof of contamination control, past experience or employment. The whole system sounded absurd.

On top of the requirements, attaining my license was the next obstacle. There were no options to apply in person or even online, all submissions were to be made by mail, which was inconvenient. Then once submissions were made, the large fee was instantly deducted from my account, before even being approved. The next step; having to have my fingerprints taken at a police station (as if I was some kind of monitored criminal) was just embarrassing, and seems extremely excessive. After having my finger prints recorded, it was a LONG period of waiting. I thought that applying for my license a month before relocating would be more than enough time to



## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

process, how I was wrong. After making the move to Queensland, I was left stranded by this ridiculous system, without an income, answers, or a job. I regularly contacted Fair Trade and QPS, to which every time I was just told to be patient, yet they could not give me even a rough estimate of processing time. When I requested to talk to a manager or any one of higher authority I was told "there is no-one you can talk to, no one will help you". I tried calling the QLD police department to track the progress of my security check, however was repeatedly turned away. I was told I would not be able to contact any one there about the issue, and referred back to fair trade. It was like I was running around in circles in an unorganized maize. It seemed as if the employees didn't even have any idea of the functionality of the system in which they were running. Eventually, after waiting over two months after my application I managed to acquire the email of [REDACTED] the Head of the licensing department. My plea for help to [REDACTED] is attached following

Dear [REDACTED]

Attached is my complaint form that I have just submitted to the general Industry Licensing email address.

I am contacting you directly in the desperate hope that you will be able to assist me, as nobody else in my numerous phone calls to Fair Trade and QPS has been willing or able to. I moved from Victoria to QLD late last year, and in preparation I applied for my tattoo license early and it was received on the 4th of December, 2014. It is now 12 weeks later and I still have not received my licence, and am unable to do anything to accelerate the process or even get an estimate of when to expect it.

In line with the laws regarding applications submitted after July 1st 2014, I have not been able to tattoo the entire time I have been in QLD. I have been without an income for months, living off my savings and waiting for my license to come through.

I have no criminal record or associations, and I am 100% confident my license will be granted. But I cannot understand the delay, and am getting to the point of relying financially on my partner and others just to survive. I have contacted the Industry Licensing Unit multiple times, and have been offered no answers or assistance. All I get told is to contact the police because it is in their hands. So I contact the police (in person and over the phone multiple times as well) and am given no answers again, and just referred back to Fair Trading. I am going in circles and getting nowhere, with no end in sight.

I need to be able to work to live, and this dysfunctional system is preventing that. While my application sits in a pile of papers on someone's desk, I am here fretting over how I will buy groceries next week. I am begging for you to re-evaluate the application process, and please help me. At the very least, allow me to continue working while my application continues to be





## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

processed, as was permitted for applications submitted before July 1st last year.

I will be calling the Industry Licensing Unit again to follow these emails up, I would very much appreciate being able to speak to you directly.  
My contact number is [REDACTED]

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

I was then told by his assistant that I would receive a call the next day. One week later he finally called, and miraculously my license had been granted that day. I attempted to have a conversation with him about the extreme flaws of the system and possibility of making amendments, however I was repeatedly shut down and cut short.

While all this was happening, I had a friend who had applied for his license in November, and ended up waiting FIVE MONTHS for his to be granted. I couldn't help but think if I hadn't spoken out, would I have been left unable to work for that long?? There has to be a better way about introducing some regulation within the industry, if it must be done. I can only hope that my statement here can help assess our current enforcement's and improve on the system which is failing its workers. Surely, there has to be a better way.

Not only was the application process absolutely absurd, reading into the matter further I couldn't believe the conditions in which I've placed myself by signing that paper. I have practically wavered all my civil rights to the police, and under any suspicion I am now open to search. Under what other profession is this legal, that I should be considered a constant suspicion purely because of my trade? My occupation is solely an expression of art!

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Skin FX Tattoos  
Surfers Paradise, QLD

My name is [REDACTED] I tattoo at Skin FX Tattoos in Surfers Paradise, QLD. I have been tattooing professionally for 5 years in QLD, in a professional, safe, clean, and well-established studio. The QLD Tattoo Parlour laws and licensing have impacted me entirely negatively since the legislation was introduced. The initial license application process was lengthy and confusing, with very little direct instruction from any government body.





## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

I relied mostly on advice given by other tattooers who were going through the process. I called the Licensing Department at Fair Trading several times for advice/information and each time I spoke to a different staff member they would give me different/contradictory information or admit outright that they didn't know the answers to my questions.

Any time I would have a question about the police check, Industry Licensing would tell me to call the police. When I would call the police about it, they would tell me to call Industry Licensing. On one occasion, I rang Industry Licensing and requested to lodge a formal complaint due to the lengthy delay and lack of information regarding an application and was told by the operator it was not possible to do so (he was lying) and when I then requested the contact details of the Department Head, he refused to give them to me and said there was nobody else to speak to. (I was able to get these details and lodge a complaint later when I rang again and spoke to a different operator).

Calls to Industry Licensing were almost entirely unhelpful and incredibly frustrating. Operators admitted knowing almost nothing about the legislation itself and absolutely nothing about the tattoo industry. Several times I had industry-related questions (such as what to do regarding doing a guest-spot for one day at another QLD tattoo studio) and was transferred to multiple staff within the Licensing department and none even knew what I meant.

The finger printing process was inconvenient and humiliating. We were only offered very limited time-slots during the day to make an appointment to have our prints taken, which meant taking time off from work. I waited for almost 2 hours in the police station before finally having my prints taken.

Eventually I received my 1 year license, months after submitting it. Several of my co-workers waited months longer than I did, and one co-worker's application was lost all together by Industry Licensing (which they denied ever receiving until we informed them that our company submitted all our applications together in one registered post pack).

In hindsight I wish I had applied for a 3 year license because in May this year, I got a letter in the mail informing me that I had to repeat the ENTIRE PROCESS and apply again for my license because there was no renewal process in place. I rang Industry Licensing and spoke to Principle Probity Office Peter Rashford, seeking to clarify what I was required to do, and he confirmed that I had to essentially re-submit duplicates of the forms they already had on file, take time off work to get the same information certified again, and have my finger prints taken again. I expressed disbelief, due to the fact that they had all this information already on record, and he admitted the system was flawed but this was the way it was.

I submitted all my identical information again, and made my appointment to be finger printed again. When I arrived I had to wait again, and when I was finally taken through to be printed, the woman handling the process asked me about the recent influx in License applications. She had no idea that there was no



## AUSTRALIAN TATTOOISTS GUILD

renewal process and was shocked when I explained the application/finger printing process would have to be repeated every year (depending on how many people apply for 1 or 3 year licenses).

As advised in the letter I received in May, I applied more than 6 weeks in advance to account for the ridiculously lengthy processing time of information that was already on record. I was also unhappy to see the license cost had increased already since being introduced. I heard nothing for 6 weeks and began panicking as July 1<sup>st</sup> approached, as I would be unable to legally continue working after that date if my license had not arrived. I stopped taking appointments for after that date so had no work lined up, until finally on June 30<sup>th</sup> I received a call from Peter Rashford letting me know that my license would arrive in the mail in the next few days and I was approved to continue working. This time I applied for a 3 year license and am hoping that the legislation will have been DRASTICALLY improved by the time I am due for a renewal.

On a personal level, this legislation has left me feeling absolutely frustrated and humiliated. I have no criminal record or associations, yet I have been profiled due to my career and am forced to jump through numerous hoops and pay hundreds of dollars a year to prove my innocence. I am passionate about my job and tattooing in general, but the license doesn't even address my ability to tattoo safely, cleanly, and at a professional standard. Our business has been negatively impacted not only by the extortionate fees, but the semi-regular visits by police officers leave myself and my co-workers feeling unfairly targeted and our customers feeling uncomfortable and unsafe.

Every step of the process has been difficult and confusing, with almost no useful advice from the departments involved. In fact the majority of Industry Licensing staff, document certifiers, and police officers that I have dealt with have expressed their sympathy and own frustration with the legislation. Many have even questioned the legality of the criminal profiling aspect. It is painfully clear that the "system" (or lack thereof) has been written without proper consultation of the tattoo industry, or even consideration of the amount of unnecessary work required for it to be processed/policed.

I very much hope that the many flaws in this legislation will be addressed and corrected as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Seventh Circle Studio,  
Woolloongabba QLD

To whom it may concern in regards to potential amendments to the Tattoo Parlours Bill as part of the VLAD act,

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been tattooing in Australia for over a



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*decade without so much of a hint of committing any crime and yet get made to feel like a criminal in regards to my trade.*

The implementation of these laws has cost countless shops within Queensland thousands up thousands of dollars as a direct result of us no longer being able to easily host guest artist from overseas and to a larger extent interstate. The application process is absurdly cumbersome and time consuming and even then we can be denied without any sound reason being given at all consequently Qld now gets overlooked.

i might also add the reapplication and resubmittal of our fingerprints is absolutely ludicrous - to my knowledge these are not something that is likely to change.

It took 1 year to the day from the application of my licence to the day it was delivered to my door, is this something that just be expected from every renewal also?

I hope that these issues are taken into account and amendments can be made to the current laws and application processes to make it easier for hard-working and honest tattooers to comply with government regulations without further stress, financial hardship or hindrance.

Sincerest thanks for your time,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Borderline Tattoos  
Gold Coast, QLD

To whom it may concern,

I have worked for and currently own Borderline Tattoos in Burleigh Heads for over 20 years. I have never had a conviction or any association with any CMCG. As a direct result of the licensing laws, the amount of interstate and international guest artists at my studio has gone from over 8 per year to maybe 2 max since the laws were introduced. Guest Artists are an integral part of running my business. This is a massive drop in potential business for us, as well as extremely disappointing to our clients and resident artists who used to look forward to having new artists in the studio to learn and share tattooing techniques, styles and artistic ideas.



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The reason potential guest artists are avoiding QLD (and why I myself have avoided working in NSW) is that the application process is lengthy, invasive, expensive, embarrassing and unnecessarily complicated, involving a large fee, multiple trips interstate to be fingerprinted, photographed, then again to collect said license at an undetermined time, provided it is granted.

It is simply no longer profitable or worth the trouble of going to work interstate for 1-2 weeks at a time, let alone for overseas artists to attempt to apply for a license.

I personally feel that if the licencing system was streamlined to allow for application via correspondence and co-operation between the QLD and NSW Government agencies and Police Service, perhaps we would once again have artists visiting our studio and reduce the time taken on the application process for all involved. For example, NSW has a photo ID, where as QLD has a piece of paper with printed name and licence number. There should be an easy way for mutual recognition within our states.

As artists, the freedom of travelling and learning is such a positive to us, as there is no formal education in this line of work, thus travelling, conversing with such artists and peers is the only way we do learn and grow, both artistically and as a industry in general..

The other point I would like to raise is the complete lack of a renewal process for our licenses once they expire. This requires all tattooers to completely re-apply for licences every 1-3 years, subjecting us to the same invasive police checks, the same ID and background checks, and to present to a police station to be fingerprinted once again, even though our fingerprints do not change. I think there could be an easier way, such as the weapons act which does not require the same renewal process in regards to owning firearms.

I feel there are too many "grey areas" when asking a question to either the OFT or QPS and find every time I am told to contact the other or will be contacted with an answer to be left with no return phone call or information on my enquiry. This takes hours away from my work/business time and I find the stress it brings the staff and myself could be easily avoided.

I am finding it hard to hire any new staff full time or casual, due to the time consuming application process and is detrimental to my business and I am personally feeling this financially.



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I hope that these issues are taken into account and amendments can be made to the current laws and application processes to make it easier for hard-working and honest tattooers to comply with government regulations without further stress, financial hardship or hindrance.

Thank you for your time  
[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED]  
Lust for Life Tattoo  
Brisbane, QLD

To whom it may concern in regards to possible amendments to the Tattoo Parlours Bill as part of the VLAD act.

My name is [REDACTED] I own and work at 'Lust for Life Tattoo' in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. I have been tattooing for 15 years and am a honest, hardworking and fully licensed tattooist in Queensland and New South Wales.

It has come to my attention that the tattoo licensing laws are being reviewed and I wish to express my concerns as there are a few flaws and oversights in these laws .

Please consider these points as this is my tattoo industry that is suffering, and Australia's tattoo industry that is suffering.. And indeed Australia as a nation that is suffering. Tattoo is an international prestigious artistic industry that deserves respect as an art form.

As a direct result of licensing laws-

:Myself and the tattooists registered as tattooing at lust for life tattoo cannot tattoo elsewhere in Queensland.

If for any reason (for eg a storm/power cut ) business is disrupted I cannot legally tattoo elsewhere. If I don't tattoo I can't eat, pay rent etc..

This applies also to the tattooists at lust for life.

We are independent contractors and rely on work / exchange of art, ideas and techniques throughout Queensland, let alone Australia. Being told I cannot work kills me, heart and soul.

: Guest artists have nearly vanished from visiting Queensland. This is a massive drop in business as well as upsetting to clients and resident



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tattooists who look forward to exchanging with new people. The lack of guest artists also affects tourism greatly.

Potential guest artists avoid Queensland and Nsw.

I paid and went through the lengthy, invasive, unnecessarily complicated, expensive process of crossing the border multiple times for fingerprints and awaited an undetermined amount of time for license collection in Nsw and repeated this process in Qld. I have clients in Queensland, Nsw, Victoria, Perth etc and international clients, like many other tattooists. This process is undesirable for Queensland tattooists and it is not viable financially or time wise for guest artists to go through these procedures, especially waiting upon pending licences when their stay has been and gone.

A recognition of one license throughout Australia would help our national guest artists and all tattooists throughout Australia.

The free exchange of art, ideas, technical skills and trade information across borders by inviting guest artists for short periods of time is a long standing tradition in the tattoo industry. This enhances our culture and creativity and builds a foundation for a ever evolving artistic platform. To deny tattooists of this cripples the industry.

For international guest artists the consecutive 31 day allowance to work (once visas and license has been approved which may take a few months) is unrealistic. For international artists to be registered with one studio only for this period is restrictive. Tattooists need to draw the designs they tattoo and generally their days off include drawing for clients. I would ask for the 31 days not to be consecutive leaving room for tattooists to work at different studios and to enjoy the touristic sites Queensland has to offer whilst working. I have a legit tattoo business that pays the appropriate tax and follows all tax procedures that makes it easy to track money's to be paid to the government and to easily see the rent provided from each tattooist at my premise. I pride myself on this. Therefore each international guest can be accounted for. At the moment a visa 400 is needed for the Queensland international tattoo license. This visa does not comply to the government requirements for a temporary tax file number or Abn for guest artists. This may be something to think about.

: The license renewal process is ridiculous.. To reapply each time the license expires costs the government in time and paperwork as it does to ourselves.. Let alone the re-fingerprinting - my Fingerprints have not changed.. I feel like I am a criminal without a crime. To do this again is





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demeaning, stressful and insulting .. Let alone a waste of both parties time. The period of waiting for a renewal requires tattooists not to work.. How do I eat during this period? Are nursing/ real estate/ car licenses the same?

Please streamline the renewal process.

:My last major concern is the lack of a certification of infection control in the work place. This is Tafe course that all professional tattooists have and should be a mandatory course for a tattoo license. Without this certificate there should be no license. We deal with blood.. Everyday, and I and all tattooists that have done this course know how to work in/dispose of /and clean the areas that are bio/waste contaminated in a tattoo environment than most in medical practices.

I hope these words have been constructive and help amendments to be put in place so that the current laws and application processes are streamlined and are made easier and more concise for tattooists, police departments , fair trading and the local and national governments alike.

Let's work together.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SkintastiC Tattoo  
Coolangatta, QLD

To whom it may concern,

I am a Tattoo Operator in Queensland submitting my statement for the current review.

As a Business Operator In Queensland, I cannot EXPRESS and DEFINE enough, how this Tattoo Licensing Law has Limited, Controlled, Obstructed and Restained Income Revenue.

As an Professional Indipendant Tattoo Business Owner I have constructed and raised questions with the Office Of Fair Trading in regards to many Business Circumstances. The Inadequet and Limited Information response from the TRAINED STAFF at the Office of Fair Trading has ME convinced that this 'LEGISLATION' is not only a route of ILLEGAL EXTAUTION FROM OUR GOVENMENT it also limits BUSINESS OPORTUNITY AS AN OWNER AND AS A WORKER.



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My business is located in a **STRONG TOURIST DESTINATION** on the Gold Coast. At times the area will have an **INFLUX** of upto 30,000 people over a period of a 2 week Bracket. This Tattooist Licencing **PREVENTS** me, as a **BUSINESS OWNER / OPERATOR**, to place additional Sub-Contracting Tattoo Artists, who hold ABN's, on over these very Busy and Important Tourist **TRADE** Time.

Inturn, this very **Legislation limits** my usual business annual income. Not just as a Business Owner, but also for the Families of the Workers holding the **Tattoo Licence** within this very busines.

**A question Raised with the Office of Fair Trading -**  
Cafe's, Hotels, Motels, Car Hire, Family Resturants ETC, = in this very area can Hire more Coffee Barrista's, Waitresses, Security, Cleaners etc,

**WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COST TO THERE BUSINESS OUTGOINGS, WHY CAN'T I ?**

Other Businesses in the town and surrounding areas can hire people from NSW, VIC, INTERSTATE or INTERNATIONAL without submitting **EXCESS MONIES AND PAPERWORK FOR PROCESSING AND APPROVAL, FEDERAL VALIDATION and GOVERNING ENDORSMENT.**

Business owner/operators maintain Additional Expences expected by Council.

**TATTOO OWNER OPERATORS and TATTOO ARTIST ARE - EXISTING - WITH THE LIMITATIONS OF OUR RIGHTS TO OUR OWN AUTHORITY.**

**WHO DARE TAKE THE RIGHTS AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE.**

**UNDER THE WESTMINSTER LAW, THE GOVERNING ACT AND THEIR RESPONSABILITY AS PUBLIC SERVANTS ARE**

The essential features of the system are:

- An executive government is determined by a **democratically** elected lower house. The **government requires the continuing support of a majority** of members of that





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chamber to stay in office.

- The head of government is the Prime Minister, who leads a cabinet which is responsible to the lower house.
- **An opposition exists**, led by the leader of the party or parties with the second largest number of seats in the lower house.
- The presence of a constitutional monarch (where one exists) who is "above politics" and acts on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- There is a career public service which impartially serves the government of the day.
- The armed services are outside of politics and act on the instructions of the government.
- The rule of law prevails, with an independent judiciary, subject to the Constitution.

### **THE TATTOO INDUSTRY REQUIRES OUR OWN CHIEF MINISTER AND SPEAKER -**

This Assembly has power to elect a Chief Minister and Speaker; make laws; scrutinise the executive; investigate and debate matters of public importance; review the actions of the government; and oversee the government finances.

Media has publisized NON CRIMINAL TATTOO OPERATORS AND ARTIST WHO CANNOT RECIEVE THERE LICENCING.

Some recieving invitations to sit with Qld Legislator and locked out of chamber upon arrival.

**THE DISPICABLE DISCRIMINATION IS ON  
TATTOOING AS A WHOLE MUST BE STOPPED.  
COMMUNICATION CANNOT BE REACHED, AS  
OUR GOVEMENT IS NOT WILLING TO LISTEN  
TO UNDERSTAND.**

ALL IN ALL, THE NEW TATTOO LICENCING LAWS ARE DOING NOTHING FOR THE PEOPLE.

THE TATTOO LICENCING LAWS ARE LINING THE POCKETS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

LIKE OUR TOLL ROADS.

HOW IS THIS EXTRA GOVERMENT FINACES HELPING US WITHIN OUR INDUSTRY?



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ITS NOT.

THE LICENCING LAW PREVENTS US FROM TRADING WITH THE  
SAME RIGHTS AS A CAFE OWNER, NIGHT CLUB OWNER,  
HAIRDRESSER, BUILDER ETC..

THIS LICENCING REQUIRES - SCRUTINISING, INVESTIGATING  
AND DEBATE OF THE MATTER WITH PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.  
THE ULTERIA MOTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENTS NEED TO BE  
REVIEWED.

Regards,

[REDACTED]