



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**7 June 2010**

### **SUBJECT: CHANGES TO LIQUOR LICENCE LEGISLATION FOR VICTORIAN BED & BREAKFASTS**

BBFAA welcomes today's announcement by the Victorian Premier's Department that from 2011, bed and breakfasts who supply alcohol as an incidental part of their operations will no longer have to pay liquor licence renewal fees.

Following a 400% increase in the annual licence renewal fee over the last two years BBFAA lobbied for changes to the legislation on behalf of the industry in Victoria. This was to bring it in line with provisions for bed and breakfasts in South Australia and New South Wales where a liquor licence is not required providing those businesses comply with set criteria.

BBFAA Chairperson, Geoff Chapman, said "We acknowledge that excessive alcohol consumption in some parts of the community presented the Victorian Government with a real social problem, but indicated in our meetings with Consumer Affairs Minister Tony Robinson and his Department that bed and breakfasts pose a very low risk and the increased fee was a major impost on business causing many operators to cease serving alcohol to their guests.

"The new legislation will make it easier for bed and breakfast owners to comply with the legislation and will contribute significantly to the quality of the hospitality that this important sector of the tourism industry provides."

The details of the criteria for Victorian bed and breakfasts have yet to be finalised and BBFAA will continue to consult with the Department to assist in this process.

BBFAA congratulates Minister Robinson and the Victorian Government on this encouraging outcome.

### **INFORMATION FOR VICTORIAN B&B OWNERS**

The new regulations do not come into force until January 2011. The current legislation remains in place until then. Members who have elected not to renew their liquor licence for the current year need to complete and submit a 'Surrender A Licence or Permit' form to the Department. See [THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE](#) for more information.

Throughout the current year the Department will continue to inspect B&Bs to ensure compliance with the Liquor Licensing regulations. Should you be found to be serving alcohol to your guests without a current licence, enforcement proceedings will be commenced against you. Members who have decided not to renew their licence have received a notice that their premises will be subject to inspection.