



23 NOV, 2019

## SURE, LET'S ADD BOOZE



Weekend West, Perth

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Perth axe-throwing venue applies for small bar licence

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**KIM MACDONALD**

An axe-throwing venue in Northbridge wants to add alcohol to the mix with an application for a small bar licence.

Maniax director Adam Schilling is seeking a regular small bar licence but said he would impose his own limit of three cans of alcohol per session, which involves two hours of weapon-throwing and 30 minutes of coaching.

He said he wanted to follow his Queensland venue where Maniax serves up to three cans from its range of full-strength beer and cider.

He said participants would not be allowed to drink while holding the 1.3kg weapons, but would be allowed to drink while waiting their turn to hurl the hatchet at a wooden target.

The Public Health Advocacy Institute said it was concerned about the application, claiming it created an unnecessary risk.

Research fellow Julia Stafford said she was not certain yet whether the institute would formally oppose the application, but was concerned alcohol could skew the judgment of participants,

causing injury to themselves or others.

"If alcohol was involved there would have to be some very heavy controls to prevent what should be a fun occasion from ending badly," she said.

Under the Maniax plan, some participants would be over the limit if they drank the full

amount, with a 375ml can of beer with a 4.8 per cent alcohol content deemed to be 1.4 standard drinks.

Mr Schilling said Australia was the only country in the world that had baulked at liquor licences at axe-throwing venues, claiming it was common in America and Canada. He said

Victoria Police had opposed an application in Melbourne, where Maniax is only allowed to serve alcohol after a game.

"Australia is being the most difficult (of all countries) with Australia being a nanny state," he said.

Mr Schilling said statistics did not bear out any of the fears concerning alcohol and axes, claiming he was not aware of any alcohol-related injuries.

He said there was also a high proportion of staff-to-participants, with one employee for every 15 visitors.

"Axe-throwing venues are safer than your average pub," he said.

The City of Perth said it had not yet decided whether to recommend the small bar licence, which will be decided by Liquor, Racing and Gaming soon.



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