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Too early to call foul on lockout laws

The Australian Medical Association Queensland has called on critics of Queensland's new licensing laws to hold fire until accurate data is available.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Zappala said it was too early to judge the impact of the new licensing laws, which came into force on July 1.

"Cultural change is not something that will happen overnight," Dr Zappala said.

"It will take time for the new laws to turn the tide of alcohol-fuelled violence.

"However, these laws are an important first step in combatting the culture of binge drinking and associated violence in this State."

Dr Zappala said statistics for Newcastle and Sydney, where similar laws were introduced, showed a sustained decrease in alcohol-related violence over time.

"In Newcastle, alcohol-fuelled assaults dropped by a third within a year, and Sydney saw a similar decrease in violence after the same length of time," he said.

"We would hope to see the same sort of result after 12 months."

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