

Alcohol at Events

Temporary Limited License



A temporary limited licence authorises the licensee to supply liquor at the times and subject to the conditions specified in the licence. For example a temporary limited licence may be granted:

- for the supply of liquor at one-off events or a series of one-off events
- to increase trading hours or the size of the licensed premises of an existing licensee for a particular one-off event.

A temporary limited licence is generally not required for private events where liquor will be supplied free of charge. A licence will always be required if the supply of liquor is contingent on the sale or purchase of some good or service. If liquor is being supplied through a catering company, the catering company will require a liquor licence. This is because the liquor is being purchased through the catering company.

If the premises hired for the private event is licensed (for example a licensed restaurant), then a temporary limited licence is not required. The licensee of that premises is responsible for ensuring that liquor is supplied in accordance with the conditions of its licence.

However, if the premises hired for the private event is unlicensed and falls within one of the below categories, then a temporary limited licence will be required:

- milk bar, convenience store or mixed business.
- premises where meals are ordinarily served to the public for consumption on the premises.
- premises occupied by a club.
- premises where light refreshments and nonintoxicating drinks are sold to the public for consumption on the premises.
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Common premises that would fall within the above categories would be an unlicensed restaurant, unlicensed boats that sell refreshments or an unlicensed football club. A function hall with a commercial kitchen would not fall within this category as the premises are not used “ordinarily” to serve food to the public.

Examples of events where a temporary limited licence is not required:

- a private function being held at a town hall where liquor is supplied free of charge – e.g. birthday parties, weddings, christenings.
- provision of complementary liquor at art galleries, retailers, schools or workplaces – provided the complimentary liquor is not contingent upon any purchase of goods or services.

Examples of events where a temporary liquor licence is required:

- events (such as exhibitions, awards nights) where complimentary liquor is provided, dependent upon financial membership.
- retailers/galleries/companies offering complimentary liquor dependent upon the purchase of a good or service.
- balls, award nights, fundraising events where the ticket price includes the supply of liquor.
- private function being held at an unlicensed restaurant or sporting club where liquor is supplied free of charge.

If you are unsure as to whether you need a temporary limited licence for your event, please contact the VCGLR on 1300 182 457 or email contact@vcglr.vic.gov.au