



LICENSING AND REGULATION

Drink Spiking

Drink Spiking or Drug and Alcohol Facilitated Sexual Assault describes a situation where a person's ability to consent to or refuse sexual activity is impaired as a result of consuming too much alcohol and/or other drugs, either by the victim's own choice or because of drink spiking. Women and particularly young women are more commonly targeted.

Drugs and/or alcohol used to spike drinks can have unexpected effects. Persons displaying behaviour that is 'out of character' or inconsistent with the amount of alcohol or non-alcoholic drink consumed should be taken to hospital for medical attention.

Many drink spiking information publications make claims that drugs used are colourless and tasteless so that patrons might not realise that anything has been added. However, recent evidence from the large forensic studies clearly indicate that alcohol is the single most commonly used drug to spike other people's drinks, with up to 75% of victims testing positive to high levels of alcohol. The same studies indicate that there is no 'typical' incident of drink spiking.

Licensees should be mindful of the potential for drink spiking occurring at their venue and not encourage the pouring of double and triple shots. In addition they should encourage patrons to:

- ✓ Always get their own drink and watch it being poured;
- ✓ Not leave their drink unattended;
- ✓ Not accept drinks from others;
- ✓ Never assume a friend is merely drunk – ensure they get home safely

Licensees have a legal responsibility for the duty of care of all patrons. You are required to be vigilant, and treat all complaints of spiking seriously. Ensure staff are aware that drink spiking (including adding of additional alcohol to standard drinks) can occur and ask them to be alert at all times.

A guide for addressing drug & alcohol facilitated sexual assault, issued by the Department of Health and Community Services, is attached.

REMEMBER

Your vigilance may prevent an assault from occurring

General Disclaimer: The material contained in this publication is intended for use as a guide and for general information only. It is not intended to be a substitute for independent professional advice. The Northern Territory Department of Justice accepts no responsibility or liability for the correctness, accuracy and completeness of any of the material contained in this publication and recommends that users of this publication exercise their own skill, care and judgment in the application of the information contained in the publication.

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DRUG & ALCOHOL FACILITATED SEXUAL ASSAULT

A guide for staff working in the hospitality industry

Drug and Alcohol Facilitated Sexual Assault describes a situation where a person's ability to consent to or refuse sexual activity is impaired as a result of consuming too much alcohol and/or other drugs, either by victim's own choice or because of drink spiking.

If you witness or receive a report from a patron that she/he has been sexually assaulted and/or her/his drink has been spiked, the best practice would be for staff to exercise the following procedure:

1. Take the victim to a safe place.
2. Secure evidence eg glass or drink bottle.
3. Report the incident to the Duty Manager.
4. Record basic information about the victim, her/his companions if any, and if possible, also gather information about the suspected perpetrator.
5. Enter incident into the log book.
6. Ask the victim if they would like to speak to the Police or Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and offer to make the contact.
7. If the victim does not want the Police or SARC, provide them with these phone numbers and ensure they are able to travel to a safe place

Region	Police Phone No.	SARC Phone No. (24 hrs a day)	Other
Darwin	131 444	8922 7156	Ruby Gaea: 8945 0155 (Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 5.00pm)
Alice Springs	8951 8888	8951 5880	
Tennant Creek	8962 4444	8962 4364	
Katherine	8973 8000		Centacare: 8971 0777 or 8973 9211 (afterhours Katherine Hospital)
Nhulunbuy	8987 1333		

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