

Sydney's Sunday Telegraph, 10 February 2019, p.19

Ban the 'drunken tattoos'

JACKIE SINNERTON

A RISE in "drunken tattoos" has sparked a call for dodgy artists to be reported for criminal assault — an offence that could lead to seven years in jail.

The former president and a spokesman for the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgeons wants tighter legislation on tattoo artists working on people too intoxicated to give proper consent, and encourages anyone with "tattoo regret" to take criminal action.

"These drunken tattoos without proper consent are assault. Policing of every tattoo parlour is not always feasible so people need to start taking action. Tattoo removal is not an easy thing to do and you are likely to end up with scarring. A cooling-off period is a must," Dr John Flynn said.

McCrindle research has found that one in five Australians has a tattoo but almost one-third of them regret it.

Dr Flynn said a tattoo was a very invasive procedure and no one could be sure of the safety of the ink. "You can't walk into a surgery and have any other forms of surgical work done without giving consent and being sober and of clear mind. It needs to be the same for tattoos," he said.

Melbourne's Herald Sun, 10 February 2019, p.25

Dodgy tattoo crackdown

JACKIE SINNERTON AND
ALANAH FROST

Criminal action push for art without consent

A RISE in "drunken tattoos" has sparked a call for dodgy artists to be reported for criminal assault — an offence that could lead to six years in jail.

Dr John Flynn, former president and a spokesman for the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery, wants tighter legislation on artists working on people too intoxicated to give proper consent and encourages anyone with tattoo regret to take criminal action.

While it is not an offence under the Summary Offences Amendment (Tattooing and Body Piercing Act) 2008, the department warns a person who unlawfully assaults a person and causes that person bodily harm is

liable to a maximum penalty of six years' imprisonment under the Crimes Act.

"These drunken tattoos without proper consent are assault. Policing of every tattoo parlour is not always feasible so people need to start taking action. Tattoo removal is not an easy thing to do and you are likely to end up with scarring. A cooling-off period is a must," Dr Flynn said.

South Australia introduced an Act in 2012 making it illegal to tattoo a drunk or high customer. But in Victoria there are no specific obligations on tattooists to assess the competence

of an individual who chooses to get a tattoo.

Melbourne man Andy Hellyer, 33, got his first tattoo when he was 15 but has since had the design covered.

"I was 15 and in a band and the whole band thing was tats and all that jazz. My family friend was here from overseas and said they would pay for it, so it was all part of the hype," he said. "Later on in life it just wasn't something I was into. I was never into that sort of stuff to be honest. The design was just on a wall at a tattoo parlour and I walked in, pointed at it and said 'I'll get that'."

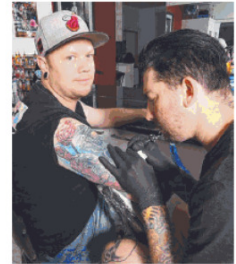
In Victoria, current laws prohibit people under the age of 18 from getting a tattoo but those 16 and above can do so with parental consent.

Mr Hellyer agrees there should be tougher laws for when people can get tattoos for the safety of both the patron and the artist.

"I think they probably should have stricter laws for how old you can be — 18 or even 21, you make better decisions at 21," he said.

A state government spokeswoman said people who tattooed someone under 18 could face serious penalties.

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Tattoo artist Daniel Clark works on covering a tattoo Andy Hellyer got when he was underage. Picture: ALEX COPPEL

Brisbane's Courier-Mail, 10 February 2019, p.24

24 NEWS

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10

Drunken tattoo regrets spark calls for clean-up

Ink after drink causes stink

EXCLUSIVE
JACKIE SINNERTON

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Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgeons spokesman and former president Dr John Flynn wants tighter legislation on artists working on people who are too intoxicated to give proper consent. He also encourages anyone with tattoo regret to take criminal action.

While it is not an offence under the Tattoo Industry Act 2003, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General warns a person who unlawfully assaults a person and causes that person bodily harm is liable to a maximum pen-

alty of seven years' jail under the Criminal Code.

"These drunken tattoos without proper consent are assault," Dr Flynn told *The Sunday Mail*. "Policing of every tattoo parlour is not always feasible so people need to start taking action."

"Tattoo removal is not an easy thing to do and you are likely to end up with scarring. A cooling-off period is a must."

South Australia introduced a law in 2012 mak-

ing it illegal to tattoo a drunk or high customer, but Queensland Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath says there are no plans to introduce this law here.

Reputable Brisbane business Tradition Tattoo's Ben Rorke says his artists would definitely not tattoo someone they knew was under the influence.

"If we ever have any suspicions, we just politely send them away and ask them to come back another time," Mr Rorke said.

New research shows that one in five Australians has a tattoo.



SAFE HANDS: Tattoo artist Emma Hudson from Valley Ink in Fortitude Valley believes in responsible work practices. Picture: AAP/Sarah Marshall

Daily Mail UK, 10 February 2019, [link](#)

Think before you ink: Call for artists who tattoo drunk people to be charged with assault and face up to seven years in jail

- **Dr John Flynn encouraging anyone with 'tattoo regret' to take criminal action**
- **Not illegal to tattoo drunk person in Queensland and no plans to introduce law**
- **South Australian law makes it illegal to perform tattoo on intoxicated person**

By [Sahar Mourad For Daily Mail Australia](#)

A rise in 'drunken tattoos' has prompted calls for rogue tattoo artists to be charged with assault if their customer is deemed to intoxicated to consent.

Dr John Flynn from the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgeons is encouraging anyone with 'tattoo regret' to proceed with criminal action, [Courier Mail](#) reported.

Under the Tattoo Industry Act 2003 in Queensland, it is not illegal to tattoo a drunk person, and Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath says there are currently no plans to introduce new laws to jail tattoo artists.



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But the Department of Justice and Attorney-General has warned that a person who unlawfully assaults a person and causes a person bodily harm is liable to a maximum penalty of seven years in jail.

'These drunken tattoos without proper consent are assault,' Dr Flynn told The Sunday Mail.

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South Australia introduced a law in 2012 where it is illegal to perform any body modification procedures on intoxicated people



A person must not perform a body piercing or body modification procedure on a person who is intoxicated (whether by alcohol or by any other substance or combination of substances),' the law reads

Risk of getting a tattoo

When getting a tattoo or piercing you risk yourself getting either of the following:

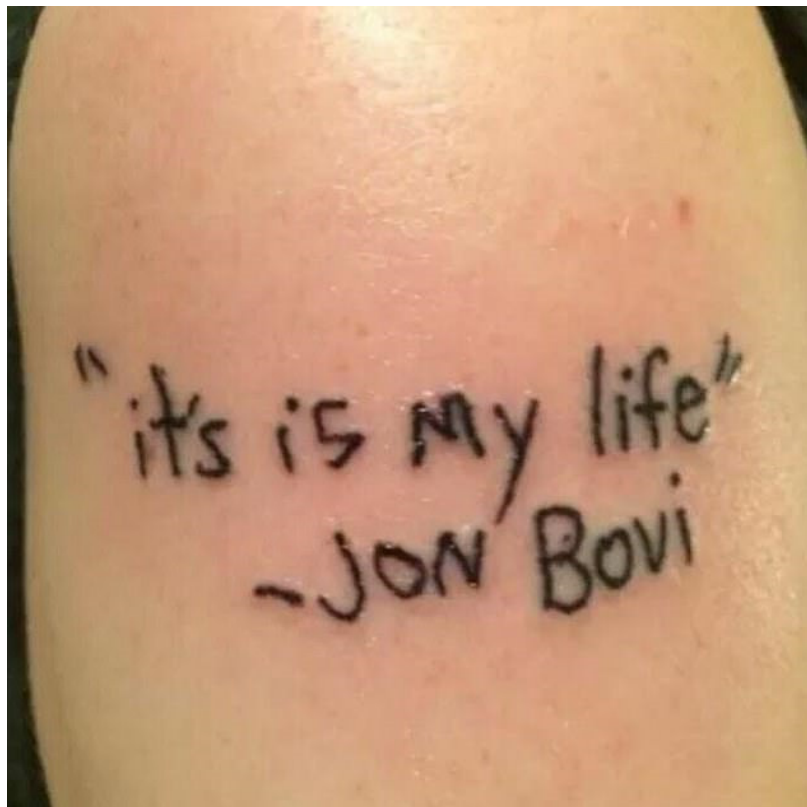
- Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis B
- HIV
- Bacterial infection

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'A person must not perform a body piercing or body modification procedure on a person who is intoxicated (whether by alcohol or by any other substance or combination of substances),' the law reads.

Anyone who is caught will face a maximum penalty of \$5000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

The tattoo artist or similar are allowed to defend themselves on reasonable grounds by proving that they did not know the client was intoxicated at the time of the procedure.



Plastic surgeon Dr Laith Barnouti said there's been an astonishing rise in people wanting to remove their drunken tattoos

Tradition Tattoo's Ben Rorke told Courier Mail that no artists would tattoo someone if they knew they were under the influence.

'If we ever have any suspicions, we just politely send them away and ask them to come back another time,' Mr Rorke said.

Plastic surgeon Dr Laith Barnouti also told the publication that there's been an astonishing rise in people wanting to remove their drunken tattoos.

The Courier-Mail, 10 February 2019, [link](#)

Syndicated in the Cairns Post, Gold Coast Bulletin and the Mercury

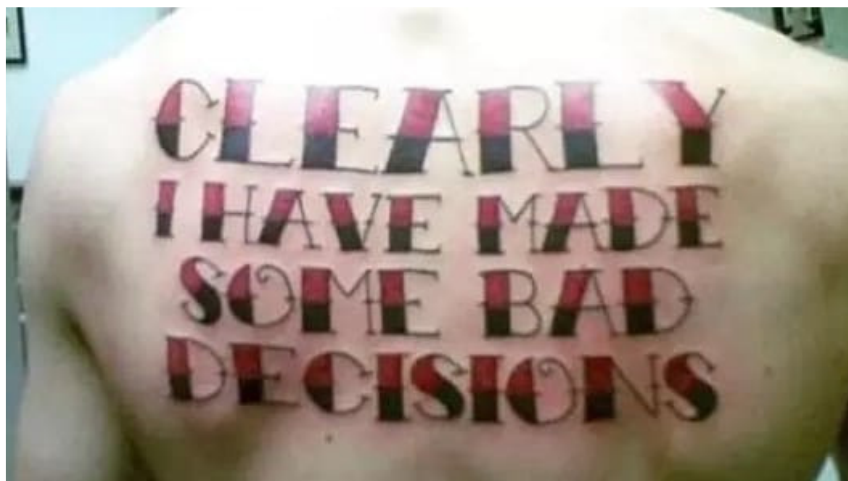
Inking drunk customers sparks doctors to call for new laws

Jackie Sinnerton, The Courier-Mail
February 10, 2019 5:13pm
Subscriber only

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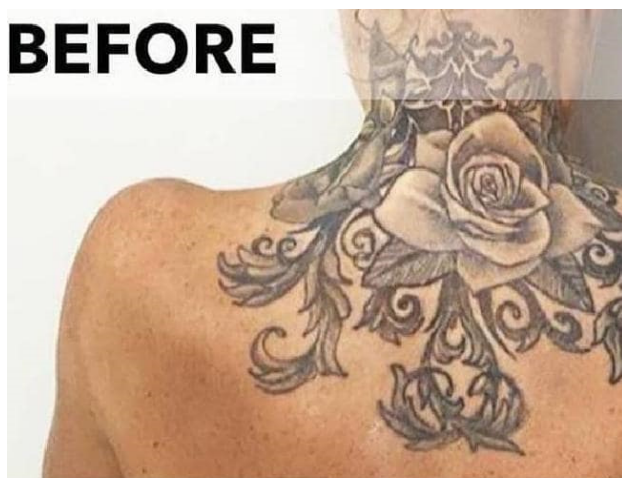
Tattoo artist Emma Hudson at Valley Ink, Fortitude Valley. (AAP/Image Sarah Marshall)

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New research shows that one in five Australians has a tattoo.

Plastic surgeon Dr Laith Barnouti, specialising in cosmetic surgery, reports a rise in patients wanting drunken tattoo removal.

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Tattoo removal is tricky

“Just last week I saw another successful airline attendant applicant requesting to remove the tattoo from her foot, as she will be subjected to exam prior to signing off for the job and the condition is that she should not have any tattoos on her body covered or not,” Dr Barnouti said.

Dr Flynn says that a tattoo is a very invasive procedure and no one can be sure of the safety of the ink.

The process breaks the skin and injects a fluid into the dermis layer of the skin to change the pigment.

Tattoos are removed through a surgical procedure that can leave permanent scarring after multiple laser sessions. Some cannot be removed at all.

“You can’t walk into surgery and have any other forms of surgical work done without consent, being sober and of clear mind. The same needs to happen for tattoos,” he said.

South Burnett Times, 10 February 2019, [link](#)

'Drunken tattoos' could end in jail time

by Jackie Sinnerton

10th Feb 2019 2:00 PM

Subscriber only

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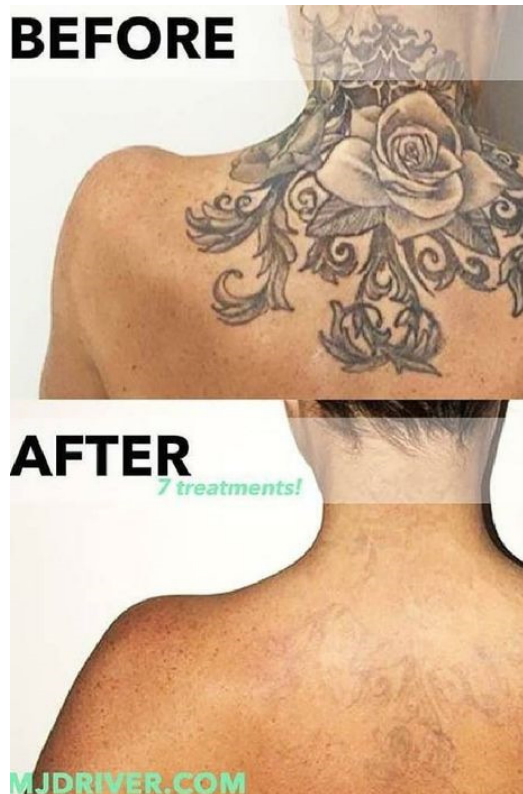


Tattoo artist Emma Hudson at Valley Ink, Fortitude Valley. (AAP/Image Sarah Marshall)

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