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LABOR'S CONFUSION NO HELP FOR VICTIMS OF CBD VIOLENCE

Labor's political panic over violent assaults in Melbourne's CBD shows the Brumby Government's only reaction to the violence on city streets is confusion.

"Labor's muddled, contradictory and weak response will do nothing to help the victims of violence and their families," Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs Michael O'Brien said today.

"Consumer Affairs Minister Tony Robinson flagged the idea of a ban on liquor licences for adult entertainment venues in this morning's *Herald Sun*, but hours later has walked away from the proposal, saying *'The government's not in the business of coming out and banning things'*.

"A week might be a long time in politics, but Labor can't even hold a policy position for a full day.

"The Brumby Government's ad-hoc response is no substitute for a comprehensive strategy including more police on our streets.

"Labor's confusion today follows in the wake of disasters like the farcical 2am lockout, banning notices which pushed violence into adjacent suburbs and the Safe Streets Taskforce which diverted badly-needed police from our outer suburbs into the CBD.

"The Minister and the Premier float so-called policy proposals which are invariably dumped or forgotten when their folly becomes obvious.

"After a horrendous weekend of vicious stabbings inside or near nightclubs, the Minister attempted to distract the media by focusing on strip clubs at a time when the many victims of violent assaults deserve a proper policy response from Labor," Mr O'Brien said.

Victoria Police figures have previously revealed that as few as 27 infringement notices were issued for the offence of supplying liquor to an intoxicated person between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008 when there are around 17,000 liquor licensees in Victoria.

"Instead of wheeling out ad-hoc responses and thought bubbles, Labor must focus on better enforcement of liquor laws by Victoria Police and Liquor Licensing," Mr O'Brien said.

"Until John Brumby funds more police on our streets and releases a comprehensive strategy to fight violence and anti-social behaviour, Melburnians can expect more weekend violence in the CBD."

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