

INCREASE IN KNIFE CRIMES.

Wherever and however it started, carrying knives as weapons has become part of youth culture in Australia. Every day the newspapers bring us stories of stabbings. Arguments that might have once ended in scuffles, brawls that might have ended in a black eyes or lost teeth; these are now often ending with someone stabbed. Drunks fight easily. Young men are quick to take offence. These things have always been true. But as tempers rise nowadays it has become the done thing to pull out a knife... and from there the consequences can be forever.

It used to be so much easier for a business owner to deal with a drunk or shop-stealer or a druggie. What you saw was what you got. Now it isn't. Now the angry individual, or robber, is likely to be packing a six-inch switch-blade.

And sadly, with the expectation that people might be carrying knives, public liability has become far more dangerous for business owners. If someone has their eye blackened on your premises, then you might be found negligent in securing that person's safety and it might cost you some annoying amount of compensation. Cancel this year's week at Hotham.

But if someone is stabbed, and the legal community can now rightly argue there is an expectation that an offender would be carrying a knife, you might be found negligent of a duty of care in a case that involves a fatality. Which is likely to be fatal to your business as well. Unless, that is, you can show you have taken the necessary security precautions to prevent such an incident.

Let the police take care of trouble on the streets. But you've got to look after your business.

Charter Security guards and CCTV can do it for you.