

Fact sheet 2 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO INDEPENDENT LIQUOR LAW REVIEW

Lockout laws in Sydney CBD and Kings Cross

Why is the government keeping lockout laws?

The NSW Government has carefully considered the Callinan review and feedback from stakeholders including industry, advocacy groups, police, health professionals and residents.

Mr Callinan confirmed the lockout laws are valid and an appropriate measure to reduce alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour.

Since the laws were introduced, the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross have become much safer and quieter, with non-domestic assaults reduced by 45 per cent in Kings Cross and 20 per cent in Sydney CBD by June 2015.

The Government considers these are compelling reasons to keep the lockout laws.

We are also strongly committed to helping make Sydney's nightlife more vibrant and diverse with a wider range of entertainment options.

Why are laws for live entertainment venues being relaxed?

The Government acknowledges the Callinan review's findings about the impacts of the lockout laws on businesses and night-time entertainment, with live performers particularly affected.

To help stimulate Sydney's nightlife and provide greater choice and diversity of night-time entertainment, there is a case for relaxed lockout laws at lower-risk live entertainment venues.

Therefore, we will take up the Callinan review's suggestion of a two-year trial of later lockout and last drinks times for genuine live entertainment venues.

Eligible venues will have lockout times extended from 1.30am to 2am and last drinks times extended from 3am to 3.30am. The trial will not include venues solely operating as a nightclub, karaoke or adult entertainment venues or prescribed Violent Venues.

How will it work?

Live entertainment will be carefully defined to include events where one or more entertainers are engaged to perform music (live or pre-recorded) or live performance where performers are present.

Venues seeking later lockout times will need to run substantial live entertainment including after midnight and demonstrate a genuine focus on art, live performance and cultural events.

Other factors that will be considered include music and copyright licensing through APRA AMCOS, tickets for events, involvement in festivals and previous operating history.

How will the trial be monitored?

We recognise the trial of relaxed lockout laws risks increasing alcohol-related violence.

Therefore, we will closely monitor the trial and conduct a full evaluation after two years.

Existing safeguards, including Kings Cross ID Scanners, post-midnight drink and glass restrictions, and RSA marshal requirements will continue for late-trading venues.

Industry supervision and enforcement

Liquor & Gaming NSW conducts intelligence led and risk-based industry supervision and enforcement activities across NSW. It has extensive powers under NSW liquor laws to target irresponsible attitudes or practices towards the promotion and sale of liquor.

Further information about key reforms to the NSW liquor laws can be found in the other related fact sheets detailed below:

- 1 – Overview of NSW Government reforms to liquor laws
- 3 – Extension of takeaway alcohol sales
- 4 – Small bar liquor licence changes
- 5 – Further changes to NSW liquor laws

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