

**6<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Mr Jonathan Horton QC  
The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority  
PO BOX 8325  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Dear Mr Horton,

***SUBMISSION TO THE NEWCASTLE CBD LIQUOR LICENCE CONDITIONS REVIEW***

We strongly support maintaining the Newcastle conditions and believe they should be extended to adjacent suburbs where unacceptable alcohol related violence continues to occur including the Hamilton area/Beaumont Street.

We have children who are now teenagers and we have watched them and their friends enjoy many alcohol free events, with live music. We have not yet heard any of them say, it would have been better if they were smashed. The live music scene here is diverse and prospering. We are asking you, to keep our children safe. To put it bluntly, Newcastle was not safe before these laws were put in place.

We witness the change in the atmosphere and the environment when the Liquor License condition, some five years ago. The change was quick and a huge relief. My wife is a nurse and we had many conversations about how relieved we felt for the safety of our children and their future social life in Newcastle. Her experience is powerful and it's time, those on the frontline were heard. They have been ignored for far too long. From her professional point of view, the change in the demands at the Hospital, and how fast that happened, astounded everyone. While it can still be distressing, the shift from the chaos to a manageable, more humane experience was extraordinary.

**We live within 50 meters of 3 Licenced venues.** Our weekends are no longer spent hosing down urine, blood and other bodily fluids. We are no longer repairing bike tyres punctured by shattered glass. It used to be everywhere. The licensed venues near our home are cleaner, busier and thriving. The very idea that the proposed changes in these laws is to support "live music" is an absolute nonsense. Live music is also thriving and we go to these events, because we feel safe walking around at night.

Anyone who is in a position to change the laws now in place, should at the very least, come and spend a month in Newcastle, with us. A month in the Emergency Departments of the local Hospitals. A month transparently and widely speaking with the locals...business and

residents who are the most affected by turning our communities back in to public urinals and for putting us and our family's at increased risk. A risk we are begging you, NOT to return to us. It was diabolical before. It was embarrassing. It was distressing. It was UNNECESSARY and it still is and there is no reason to return to those conditions.

Let's be honest. This is simply about lining the pockets of a few. The cost though in the health, economic and social impacts, for which these few contribute nothing, is disgusting and hugely significant. This proposal is not about live music or the impact on community. It is for their lifestyle.

The evidence is clear and demonstrated, the Newcastle conditions have been effective in reducing alcohol related harm, destruction of public property, reduction of social, economic and health costs and should remain in place.

Yours sincerely,

David and Catherine Turner

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