

Liquor law/ lockout review

Adam Berger [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review <liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au>;

Hello,

I am a born-and-bred Sydneysider, and a specialist physician residing in the inner city and working in a major metropolitan hospital.

I would like to add my voice to the chorus of those standing opposed to the current laws, which I think are draconian, ill-conceived and destructive to the cultural life of this city.

The issue of drug and alcohol associated violence has been one of a media generated moral panic, and was an issue which existing laws were well and truly capable of dealing with. What seemed to be lacking was either sufficient police resources to actually have a prominent presence in the busiest late night precincts, or maybe just a willingness to actually police drunk and disorderly members of the public, and have them removed from the area before they became a danger to the public. Additive to this were poor transport infrastructure, along with restrictive local licensing laws, which created a late night bottleneck of patrons and revellers unable to either take their custom anywhere else, or to easily leave and go home.

In many ways, allowing more widespread late night trading elsewhere in the city, along with liberalising off licence sales hours, would actually do much to alleviate "problem areas" in the CBD and the Cross.

I reject the premise that we have a "cultural problem" with alcohol. Are we so different from Melbourne? What is needed is to encourage a small bar culture spread throughout the city rather than centralised in one or two small spots. I reject that the antisocial actions of a few should now dictate what time the 99.9% of responsible adults who have never been in a bar fight have to go to bed by. What role is it of the government to ordain that "nothing good happens after 3am" to grown adults, and shut the city down?

The documented reduction in assaults was at the cost of many businesses and jobs, and has been a genuine assault on the live music scene which is part of the soul of the city. It has also excluded many thousands of shift workers and hospitality workers from being permitted to enjoy a drink or two after work.

I am a responsible and productive member of society, who on numerous occasions in the past few decades has been out at licensed premises on the weekend with friends having a good and non-violent time to well past 4am. I strongly resent this government's heavy handed approach and, as a local whom is very much affected by these changes to my city, wish to add my voice to those who ask this review to reconsider these laws.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Adam Berger