

# Lock out laws

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

To Whom This May Concern,

I would like to share a story from my own experience of Kings Cross both before and after the implementation of the lock out laws.

I am a 24yr old female and work as a nurse in Newcastle. (The birth place of the lockout). The fact that Sydney did not have such laws was motivation enough for a group of friends and myself to organise regular bus trips to Kings Cross to blow off some steam. This would of course mean our mine was supporting the tourism industry as we booked hotels, day tours, shopped, train fares, all meals and drinks... What is alluring about the nightlife now? What is there to encourage the public to spend money in the area?

The experiences during the nights that I spent in Kings Cross are varied, but due the constant flow heavy foot traffic and presence of security at every night spot, I can say with absolute certainty, even as a young lady, I never once felt afraid or unsafe.

In contrast, my most recent experience in Kings Cross has changed that and I am doubtful I will return. Following the closure of the bar we were in (The once bustling and thriving Kings Cross Hotel) the 30 or so patrons that remained were forced onto the street. It was obvious other establishments had to close earlier as the strip was virtually a ghost town. As we walked toward the train station were stopped by a group of heavily intoxicated tourists who became quite abrupt with myself and two female friends. I looked around, there was no one in sight that may have been able to assist if the situation escalated. Luckily, it didn't come to that. As we walked, we were ushered into a small bar/gentlemans Club that requested we pay \$10 to enter...or what ever you had in your wallet. As we entered, it became very obvious we were the only females in the establishment. Alarm bells began to ring.

We were then approached by a foreign man who asked 'What are you doing in my club', which we obviously replied- 'It's the only place still open!'. I felt uncomfortable and continually urged the girls to leave, however they seemed to be enjoying themselves, chatting with the other patrons, so we stayed.

However, the feeling of uncertainty and being washed did not let up. The drinks on offer were few and Cocktails' being served were a premixed concoction- No way I would drink that not being able to see what has been mixed in.

The night ran pretty monotonously after this; my friends and I would be approached, hit on and then name called when their approaches were turned down.

I can say in all honesty, It was the worst night out I have experienced. And the long walk to the train station was equally as frightening, while drug fuelled vagrants and homeless people stumbled around hurling abuse at anyone that would listen, uninterrupted by the crowds that once flooded the streets or security guards and police officers going about their patrols.

So, The Lock Out may be resulting in fewer alcohol related incidents, but with fewer people visiting the area, it only stands to reason. Don't let Kings Cross die!

Sent from my Windows Phone