

Reply all | ▾



Delete

Junk | ▾



Feedback on the lockout laws



To: Liquor Law Review; ▾



Reply all | ▾

Fri 1/04

Inbox

I would prefer to remain anonymous, but I would like my views heard.

I am a 30 year old female and I have lived in [REDACTED] for the past 4 years. I also work in St Vincents' Hospital. I have seen firsthand the effect of the lockout laws as both someone living in the area and working somewhere affected by alcohol related violence. And I have to say, I am not in favour of these laws. The lockout laws have directly affected my life in the following ways:

1. The Kings Cross/Darlinghurst area is now a creepy ghost town. With the closure of reputable restaurants, lively bars and hundreds of people walking the streets most nights of the week, I have never felt less safe walking around my own neighbourhood. Without all of that, The Cross is left feeling with this strange deserted feeling and the people left behind are the prostitutes, the junkies, the dodgy guys trying to lure me into strip clubs - I had no problem walking down Darlinghurst Road late at night before and now I will avoid it (and the backstreets coming off it!) at all costs.
2. The whole reason I moved to this neighbourhood is now gone - I wanted to live somewhere vibrant, close to bars and restaurants that I loved. Most of them have now closed. I am probably going to move soon. Partly because of this, but mostly because of reason 1.
3. Every time i see justification for the lockout laws, they mention the staff at St Vincents' Hospital, who all mention that they have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of presenting cases due to alcohol in the ED. Well of course this is going to happen because there is no one around to be admitted! That does not mean there are no drunk people being admitted to hospital or being violent anywhere in Sydney. I have friends who work at RPA, Prince of Wales and Concord Hospital who all report an increase in caseload related to drinking (not necessarily violent incidents, but even people falling off balconies, running into traffic etc) since the lockout laws were introduced. What it seems like to be is that the behaviour the government is trying to stamp out has just moved suburbs (and they aren't surveying those suburbs).
4. The Casino exemption. I am sorry but this just makes me lost faith in the Government completely. Come on, guys. That is so un-Australian.

I truly do not believe the lockout laws are the solution here. There have been several other options put forward which deserve consideration (increased police presence, 24hr transport) but I also think some money should be put towards addressing the social issues that cause these young guys to go out on a weekend looking for a fight.

I have traveled and lived in places around the world and never experience restrictions like this. I refuse to believe that Sydneysiders are so violent and irresponsible that we need laws like this to keep us in line. I urge the government to reconsider these laws, and spend their time and energy addressing the social problems that cause violence for the few that seem to commit it.