

Submission: Lock Out Law Review

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Fri 1/04

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To the Hon. Ian Callinan AC,

As someone who has grown up in Sydney I am bitterly disappointed by the Governments implementation of the Lock Out laws. I would like to be as proud of Sydney as a New Yorker is of New York. I would like a diverse and vibrant nightlight which leads to economic and social prosperity.

Instead these "laws" have negatively impacted on Sydney businesses, arts and culture.

Do the laws address violent behaviour?

I understand that these laws were a response to perceived link between drinking and violence. However when the tragic death of Daniel Christie took place at **9pm** in Kings Cross in 2014, Premier Barry O'Farrell acknowledged that lock out laws would be cold comfort to the Christie family as they would have "had no impact." (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-01-02/alcohol-crackdown-wouldnt-have-stopped-nye-attack/5182088>). The laws do not address psychological and behavioural problems that many of the aggressors in these incidents are dealing with. Nor do they prevent individuals pre-loading at home just as the assailant Shaun McNeil had done. Instead they punish the responsible majority.

Impact on the arts and therefore Sydney's economy

I am also dismayed as an arts and cultural worker to see that these laws have directly impacted upon the viability of the performing arts sector and consequently the livelihoods of artists who perform in these venues. Many of the most successful contemporary visual artists, musicians, writers and curators that work professionally in Sydney were fostered by its nightlife in Oxford Street and the Kings Cross. These individuals have gone onto develop internationally renowned festival such as Vivid and the Biennale of Sydney, which

bolsters not only the cultural identity but economic and tourism value of our city.

Why is the Casino exempt?

I am deeply troubled by the lack of transparency in these laws, particularly that the Star Casino appears to be exempt from any of the restrictions on drinking, smoking or lock out times. It is abundantly evident that a donation of \$4.7 billion gambling debts to the Government allows the Casino to operate on distinctly separate rules.

There is also a strong correlation between people who gamble committing acts of domestic violence which have far reaching consequences on our society.

These laws are ageist

Lastly I feel as a 31 year old female these laws don't represent me or my interests. In fact as Richard Cooke describes "For many of the young and those approaching middle age, it constitutes a final straw. The physical lockout is the final manifestation of a cultural lockout they have suffered for a long time. They have been locked out of the housing market, locked out of affordable education, locked out of the welfare system and secure employment. They have seen their political power and their real wealth shrivel. And now the one area where their expectations had not been curtailed – recreation – is being destroyed as well."

It is possible to have both a safe and diverse night life – look at New York as an example – without imposing the restrictions of the Lock Out Laws.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Grace Archibald