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Liquor Law Review Submission

SB Sarah Barron 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Sun 3/04

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Action Items



To Whom it May Concern,

I wish to firmly voice my disapproval of the way in which the state government has imposed unreasonable restrictions on venues in Sydney.

I also really protest in the strongest terms against the fact that I can't purchase a bottle of wine after 10pm.

I am 47 years old, I work full time for a not-for profit organisation in the arts industry. I am the primary caregiver for my elderly mother. The era of all night partying is mostly behind me, however as a grown up, I should be allowed to stay up past my bedtime on special occasions. Wine bar browsing is far more my style these days than club hopping but who has decided that I can't do any of this after 1.30am?

If I work a twelve hour day, why can't I have a nice Riesling as a reward at the end of it? If I go out for dinner with friends, why can't I grab a bottle of something on my way home for a nightcap? How does buying a bottle of Baileys at 10.30 pm to drink while I watch a movie at home on my couch threaten the fabric of society?

I have worked in the events industry for over twenty five years. I am very aware of the issues of health and safety in the entertainment industry.

I am concerned that young people will find entertainment however they can, and that these restrictions will merely drive the various social scenes underground – into unsafe environments.

Kings Cross is a ghost town. Whilst it was rarely my first choice as an entertainment destination, one knew what one was getting oneself into. It was also so populated that despite the crazy carnival atmosphere, you felt safe – the good people always outnumbered the bad people. It feels less safe now than ever.

The problems won't go away, they'll just be dispersed elsewhere – to areas that aren't as well-equipped to cope as the Cross was.

Ironically, what the media so gleefully describes as 'alcohol-fuelled violence' is rarely that. The violence is far more likely to be fuelled by steroid abuse, recreational ice use, or from taking something some suburban dealer sells purporting to be cocaine.

Not only do the measures not solve any problems, they create a suite of their own.

The restrictions on venues in the affected areas negatively impact small business and threaten cultural diversity. It negatively affects a number of communities. It discourages innovation.

People come together in clubs, pubs, music venues and bars to connect, to celebrate and to participate. Communities are forged this way. Art is created, ideas are formed, alliances are forged.

These impacts will not be just short term.

It's turning Sydney into a very boring city, which is just sad really.

Please consider a more flexible response and a more forward-thinking approach.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Barron