

Liquor Law Review

MB

Mitchell Bennett [REDACTED]

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I'm just writing in relation to the upcoming Liquor Law and lock out review.

I've been a musician for the majority of my life and have DJ'd professionally since I was 14.

I'm now 28, and have spent more than half my life playing music in clubs / nightclubs. I now travel the country playing interstate on a weekly basis.

When I was 18 I attended college and worked a day job, but I was always able to perform at night due to late night trading offering me an opportunity to practice and build my confidence in front of live audiences.

Lately, that is not a possibility and I feel so sorry for the younger generation not being offered the same opportunities that I had.

Musicians, promoters, bar tenders, managers, venue owners, graphic designers, security, transfer companies and limousine services, singers and songwriters, amongst other hard working people that I know personally are losing their jobs.

It's never been this hard.

Venues are closing at a dramatic rate.

When this happens, it's not only the direct workers involved that suffer but the culture overall and those behind the scenes.

The license fees that clubs pay toward companies like ARIA and APRA also disappear.

Artists that sit at home, sober, are having their income cut so drastically because the income pool from establishments is just constantly depleting with each closure. This also goes for labels and the staff involved there.

Venue closures chip away at the culture of the Australian music scene overall.

I know that you'd have hundreds of opinions rolling in from both sides.

But the late night industry doesn't want the violence either.

There are fantastic people who understand the entertainment industry, who are trying to provide for their families.

But lately so many are falling into depression because they can't do that, most of whom are now looking to move overseas.

I've built a career for myself and so have so many close friends.

All that the industry wants, is the opportunity to continue to do so, with more thought being put in to a creative solution to solve the reasons behind individuals who spoil the happiness of others when they drink.

We want to keep working, we loved working in a thriving music industry.

Thousands of good Australians, both in NSW and in other states, are fighting to build good lives for themselves.

But we need more help from the government and authorities to be able to do so.

Please re-consider the current laws. They're hurting a lot of people.

Thanks for your time,
Mitchell Bennett

Mitchell Bennett | [REDACTED]

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