

To the Hon. Ian Callinan AC

I'm writing you to voice my concerns over the current lock out and liquor laws you are reviewing. And yes, like many others you are likely to read I'll be putting forward a case to try and change the current position of the government.

I ask you to please acknowledge the concerns of the community with understanding and compassion. And to look further then the hysteria and emotional responses the media perpetuates.

I ask you to please, with sincerity look deeper in to the affect it is having on groups of people that you may have nothing to do with and may well never have anything to do with but who are greatly affected by these restrictions.

Firstly, a little bit about myself and why I have taken the time to write this to you.

I'm 28 years old. I grew up in Ryde and went to MLC School at Burwood. I graduated with a Bachelors of Criminology from the University of Western Sydney and have worked full time as the National Distribution Manager for an international headset manufacture for the past four years.

I have been living in Kings Cross for the past five years. Not only do I work my regular 9-5 job Monday to Friday but I have also spent the last eight years Djing and running events in Sydney, particularly in Kings Cross.

As you can imagine I have an intimate knowledge of the area. Not just from working and running a business there but from being a resident.

To cut straight to the heart of it I will firstly say that I have never once felt unsafe in Kings Cross before the lockouts. I would frequently walk home on my own between three and five am most weekends.

Since the lockouts I have felt very unsafe. The streets are very quite. . The area is a ghost town.

In the time that I have worked in the Cross I have seen two fights. Two fights in eight years working across around eleven different Kings Cross venues (six of which have now been closed). I have found

it very hard to relate to the images of the 'war zone' that the news refers to even though I've been on the 'front line' for such a long time.

I held a two year residency at Hugo's Lounge. A place that was so impeccably well run and professional I was honestly shocked when the place closed and I lost a residency that was generating me close to \$30,000 per year. Seventy staff were laid off and most that I stay in contact with cant find a venue to take them on full time. They have to do several shifts across many different venues just to make ends meet.

I played for many years at The Passage Bar. Which was also forced to close its doors because the lockouts have destroyed their business model completely. The Passage was a fantastic local venue run by two wonderfully devoted young Sydney men. Who put their whole lives in to providing a fun and safe environment for people to meet, dance, eat and drink. The venue never experienced any violence. There biggest down fall was that they were a hospitality haunt. A great place for waiters, chefs, djs and bartenders to catch up after their shifts. A relaxed mature environment that served great food and cocktails. Sadly they relied on the fresh run of patrons at around 2am each night. They were forced to close due to loss revenue.

This is the story for so many Sydney venues. And it doesn't just affect the owners. It begs belief that people cannot understand that this has a ripple effect. It reaches Djs, promoters, bar staff, managers, sounds and lighting staff, bands, waiters, door staff, event producers the list goes on.

And the majority of these people are young, uni students and like me just desperately trying to keep their heads above water in a city that is so expensive that even with a full time job and working weekends I still cant afford to buy my first house.

These laws punish hard working self-made young people. They have punished businesses that have done absolutely nothing wrong. Businesses that have followed every single rule that has been put in front of them. Made every change asked of them. No glass, no smoking, no shots, no doubles, no cocktails, ID scanners the list goes on and on. It's any wonder that these businesses were barely hanging on.

I agree that things needed to change in the Cross and in Sydney. Violence is unacceptable. But how can you punish venues that do the right thing? Venues that look after their patrons? How do you punish a business for the actions of an individual? We don't charge car manufactures with murder when someone runs a pedestrian over.

People should be responsible for their own actions. And as a member of the community, that lives and works there I want things to change.

First and foremost, young men in this county **need** violence education. The attitude needs to change. Because this will continue to happen and the people most at risk are people like me. People who work in the industry.

No one is arguing that the laws have eliminated violence in the area. But at what cost! This has been a quick fix to a much larger issue and it has been at the detriment of business and culture.

A huge issue that is now disseminating in the club scene is the fact that venues can't experiment anymore. They don't have the money to bring out international acts and it is slowly destroying Sydney's reputation. As an experienced Dj that used to get booked to play my style, I'm now told to play Top 40 because they need to play to the lowest common denominator to keep people in the venue as long as possible. This means many venues are homogenizing. There used to be a venue for everyone and every style in Sydney. Not any more. And a huge point to be made is that when the quality of entertainment diminishes so does the quality of patrons.

Some of the biggest bands and Djs in the world at the moment met and began playing in the Sydney club scene. Now the venues are only willing to have Djs play the hits or are scrapping live music for ipods Artists now have very limited places to play.

Sydney acts that formed on Sydney dance floors include.

Rufus, Art vs Science, The Preatures, Sticky Fingers, Flight Facilities, The Presets, Sneaky Sound System, Alicen Wonderland, Nina Las Vegas, Flume, Cassian, Set Mo, Hayden James and The DMA's.

How are out next generation of musicians and artists going to get experience if all the venues in Sydney are exactly the same. Or refuse to let a new group on stage?

Watching my friends have to close the doors on their businesses has been incredibly distressing. And what these laws are essentially doing is destroying places of social interaction. Places of social bonding and comradry. And when these places have to close due to the pressure of the laws, it's incredibly disheartening and hurtful for the people involved and for the people that get so much joy from being apart of that venue. Especially when they have absolutely nothing to do with the violence and didn't do a single thing wrong,

To show you just how much of an impact this has had on me I have attached a breakdown of the money that I was making 1-2 years ago, compared with today.

I'm lucky as I have another source of income. But for so so so many of my colleagues this is not the case and they are seriously hurting and no one is listening to them. The rhetoric in the media seems to be that we are all drunks, drug takers and selfish. That simply isn't the case. We are the community that are most at risk of violence. We are the group most at risk of losing our lively hoods! We are the group most at risk to loose our culture, sense of identity and purpose and places that we can go and mix with like minded people! WE WANT CHANGE! Violence is unacceptable. PLEASE punish those responsible. Punish venues operating outside the law. And protect responsible operators.

There are so many things that could be implemented and are implemented all over the work that prevent violence in entertainment areas.

1. Late night food options e.g food trucks.
2. 24 hr transport on the weekends.
3. Street entertainment.
4. Punish specific venues when they do the wrong thing.
5. Have a bigger police presence and restrictions in venues that attract a young crowd. 18-25.
6. Support the venues that do the right thing and have no violence record.
7. More CCTV.
8. Make places like Kings Cross pedestrian only on Friday and Saturday night. Limiting the cars that can drive through.

Also please address the following questions that the public and hospitality community deserve answered.

1. Why is the casino and Barangaroo exempt from these laws?

2. Gambling is a huge problem in this country. Why have some pubs and clubs got pokie exemptions?
3. Why are venues with no violence records punished?
4. Why are live music venues not exempt?
5. And lastly please address the growing number of residential developments in Kings Cross.

Kind Regards,

Elizabeth Bird

Dj Liz Bird & Lazer Gunne Funke

Jul-14

Invoice #	Invoice to:	Date	Amount PAID
2014-70	Beresford	4/07/2014	\$300 Yes
2014-71	The Passage	5/07/2014	\$140 Yes
2014-72	Hugos	6/07/2014	\$550 Yes
2014-73	Passage	12/07/2014	\$140 Yes
2014-74	Beresford	18/07/2014	\$300 Yes
2014-75	Cargo	19/07/2014	\$150 Yes
2014-76	Sweethearts	19/07/2014	\$150 Yes
2014-77	Hugos	20/07/2014	\$550 Yes
2014-78	Hugos	12/07/2014	\$550 Yes
2014-79	Goldfish	25/07/2014	\$200 Yes
2014-80	Hugos	27/07/2014	\$550 Yes

\$3,580**Aug-14**

2014-81	Lo Fi	24/07/2014	\$300 Yes
2014-82	El Loco	1/08/2014	\$320 Yes
2014-83	Hugos	3/08/2014	\$550 Yes
2014-84	The Passage	8/08/2014	\$140 Yes
2014-85	Hugos	10/08/2014	\$550 Yes
2014-86	Goldfish	15/08/2014	\$200 Yes
2014-87	Hugos	17/08/2014	\$550 Yes
2014-88	Cargo	23/08/2014	\$112.50 Yes
2014-89	Hugos	24/08/2014	\$550 Yes
2014-90	El Loco	30/08/2014	\$320 Yes
2014-91	Hugos	31/08/2014	\$550 Yes

\$4,143**Sep-14**

2014-92	Cliff Dive	6/09/2014	\$150.00 Yes
2014-93	Hugos	7/09/2014	\$550.00 Yes
2014-94	Passage	12/09/2014	\$175.00 Yes
2014-95	Hugos	14/09/2014	\$550.00 Yes
2014-96	LGF - The Bar	19/09/2014	\$300.00 Yes
2014-97	The Passage	19/09/2014	\$140.00 Yes
2014-98	The Argyle	20/09/2014	\$200.00 Yes
2014-99	Hugos	21/09/2014	\$550.00 Yes
2014-100	Cargo	27/09/2014	\$150.00 Yes
2014-101	Hugos	28/09/2014	\$550.00 Yes

\$3,315.00**Oct-14**

2014-102	Passage	10/10/2014	\$140.00 Yes
2014-103	Cargo	11/10/2014	\$225.00 Yes
2014-104	Beresford	11/10/2014	\$300.00 Yes
2014-105	Hugos	12/10/2014	\$550.00 Yes

2014-106	Passage	17/10/2014	\$140.00	Yes
2014-107	El Loco	18/10/2014	\$320.00	Yes
2014-108	Oxford Art Fa	18/10/2014	\$125.00	Yes
2014-109	Hugos	19/10/2014	\$550.00	Yes
2014-110	Passage	24/10/2014	\$140.00	Yes
2014-111	Tokyo Sing Sc	24/10/2014	\$150.00	Yes
2014-112	Hugos	26/10/2014	\$625.00	Yes
2014-113	Ivy - Change F	30/10/2014	\$200.00	Yes
2014-114	Goldfish	31/10/2014	\$150.00	Yes

\$3,615.00

Nov-14

2014-115	Cargo	1/11/2014	\$150.00	Yes
2014-116	Passage	1/11/2014	\$140.00	Yes
2014-117	Hugos	2/11/2014	\$550.00	Yes
2014-118	Passage	7/11/2014	\$140.00	Yes
2014-119	Hugos	9/11/2014	\$550.00	Yes
2014-120	Passage	14/11/2014	\$140.00	Yes
2014-121	Hugos	16/11/2014	\$550.00	Yes
2014-122	Passage	21/11/2014	\$140.00	Yes
2014-123	Release Your:	22/11/2014	\$200.00	Yes
2014-124	Hugos	23/11/2014	\$550.00	Yes
2014-125	Beach Road	28/11/2014	\$240.00	Yes
2014-126	Cargo	29/11/2014	\$150.00	Yes
2014-127	Hugos	30/11/2014	\$550.00	Yes

\$4,050.00

Dec-14

2014-128	Max Event	4/12/2014	\$440.00	Yes
2014-129	Ivy - Change F	4/12/2014	\$200.00	Yes
2014-130	Release Your:	6/12/2014	\$300.00	Yes
2014-131	Hugos	7/12/2014	\$550.00	Yes
2014-132	Passage	12/12/2014	\$140.00	Yes
2014-133	Hugos	14/12/2014	\$550.00	Yes
2014-134	Hugos	21/12/2014	\$400.00	Yes
2014-135	Hugos	28/12/2014	\$175.00	Yes
2014-136	One Day Sunc	28/12/2014	\$200.00	Yes

\$2,955.00

Jan-15

2015-1	Hugos	4/01/2015	\$350.00	Yes
2015-2	Heaps Gay	17/01/2015	\$400.00	Yes
2015-3	Hugos	18/01/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-4	Hugos	25/01/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-5	LGF - Ivy	22/01/2015	\$400.00	Yes
2015-6	El Loco	31/01/2015	\$320.00	Yes

\$2,570.00

Feb-15

2015-7	Hugos	1/02/2015	\$175.00	Yes
2015-8	Hugos	8/02/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-9	Hugos	15/02/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-10	Beach Road	20/02/2015	\$240.00	Yes
2015-11	El Loco	21/02/2015	\$320.00	Yes
2015-12	Hugos	22/02/2015	\$475.00	Yes

\$2,310.00**Mar-15**

2015-13	Hugos	1/03/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-14	Heaps Gay	7/03/2015	\$500.00	Yes
2015-15	Hugos	8/03/2015	\$362.50	Yes
2015-16	El Loco	13/03/2015	\$320.00	Yes
2015-17	Hugos	15/03/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-18	Ms Carter	20/03/2015	\$250.00	Yes
2015-19	Hugos	22/03/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-20	Ivy - Change F	26/03/2015	\$200.00	Yes
2015-21	Beach Road	27/03/2015	\$240.00	Yes
2015-22	Hugos	29/03/2015	\$550.00	Yes

\$4,072.50**Apr-15**

2015-23	Hugo	5/04/2015	\$700.00	Yes
2015-24	El Loco	10/04/2015	\$320.00	Yes
2015-25	Hugos	12/04/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-26	Ms Carter	17/04/2015	\$200.00	Yes
2015-27	El Loco	18/04/2015	\$200.00	Yes
2015-28	Hugos	19/04/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-29	Hugos	26/04/2015	\$550.00	Yes

\$3,070.00**May-15**

2015-30	Hugos	3/05/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-31	Hugos	10/05/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-32	Hugos	17/05/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-33	Ivy -Change R	21/05/2015	\$200.00	Yes
2015-34	El Loco	22/05/2015	\$320.00	Yes
2015-35	Hugos	23/05/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-36	Hugos	31/05/2015	\$700.00	Yes

\$3,420.00**Jun-15**

2015-37	Hugos	7/06/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-38	Passae - Taxx	11/06/2015	\$70.00	NO
2015-39	El Loco	12/06/2015	\$320.00	Yes
2015-40	Hugos	14/06/2015	\$550.00	Yes
2015-41	Hugos	21/06/2015	\$550.00	Yes

2015-42	El Loco	26/06/2015	\$320.00	Yes
2015-43	Hugos	28/06/2015	\$550.00	Yes
			\$2,910.00	



Total **\$40,010.00**