

Liquor law review submission

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To: Liquor Law Review <liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au>;

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opinion and experiences regarding the Sydney liquor and lockout laws. I lived in Newtown until late 2013, at which point I moved to Germany for work. As a young professional, my experience of living in Sydney was generally extremely positive, with vibrant artistic community and nightlife. Since leaving, and the implementation of the lockout laws soon after, I have heard only negative things about Sydney and this will seriously affect any decision I take to return in the future.

Insofar as people in Europe that I have talked to are aware of the Sydney lockout laws, they perceive them as a joke that reduces their motivation to travel to Sydney (and Australia in general) for tourism or work. Especially in Germany, where people do not typically go to a nightclub until 1am or later, and routinely stay through daybreak, the perception of the Sydney lockout laws is that they are ridiculous and that the city must now be completely lacking in any nightlife. In my experience, there is rarely violence in nightclub districts in Germany despite their late trading hours.

I have recently discussed with a friend his possibility of moving from Europe to Sydney for work, and the lockout laws and their effect on the character of the city were a serious concern for him. I hear from friends still living in Sydney that Kings Cross and Oxford Street are completely dead, and that Newtown's inclusive character is under threat due to venues there being outside the lockout zone. Although I would like to move back to Australia at some point in the future, if Sydney continues on this path, I would be much more likely to consider moving to Melbourne, which retains its cosmopolitan reputation.

Yours sincerely,
Courtney Brell.