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Submission to the review of alcohol

SB

Sean Buck 

To: Liquor Law Review; 



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Sun 3/04

Inbox

I am a strong supporter of the current laws restricting the sale of alcohol. As a 67 year old inner Sydney resident I have often been fearful for my own safety and those of others when I have been out in the neighbourhood at night. Before the current restrictions were in place I have witnessed women been harassed by men who have been intoxicated. On occasions when a lone man was involved I would speak out and tell the man that the woman/women had no interest in them or what they had to say. The relief of this support was palpable in the woman/women. We would usually increase our walking speed to out pace the man. Of course speaking out like this carried some risk to myself. If more than one man was involved I would be far more circumspect.

I have also been harassed myself by drunken youths. Not making eye contact with these fellows was no deterrent to their persistent antagonism. I have been felt very threatened in these circumstances.

I have friends who live in Victoria Street, Potts Point who have been seriously threatened and harassed on many occasions that they will only travel by taxi between their home and their friends homes.

The units block where my flat is  has been attacked by a group of youths thrown off a "party bus". They ripped the front door off its hinges breaking the glass door surround and then tore through the building kicking in unit doors and throwing a fire extinguisher through the stairwell feature window. On this occasion the Triple Zero number clocked something like 68 calls about this incident in three minutes. When the Police arrived the youths had dispersed in the crowd on Darlinghurst Road and Victoria Streets. The cost of repairing the damage of this vandalism was not insubstantial.

Down the road from me is St Vincent's Hospital where many of the casualties from the alcohol fuelled violence are taken, the staff are not only been confronted by the innocent victims but by the drunken perpetrators who go on to threaten and inflict injury on the staff.

Since the current laws have been in place a significant degree of civilised behaviour has emerged. This has been a most refreshing change. In the last week I was in Victoria Street near the Fire Station with a group of friends. The cafes and restaurants were all a buzz. The people on the street were having a good time. There were evidence of people who were inebriated. This was between the hours of 2300hrs and 0100 hours. My friends and I at no time had any cause to feel fearful for ourselves or anyone else on the street.

This is now typically the case in Potts Point, Kings Cross and Darlinghurst.

I urge you to recommend to Government that the current laws be retained.

Sean Buck

Regards,

Sean Buck

Community supporter