

Submission in Liquor Law Review

GO Giovanni --> [REDACTED]



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Sun 3/04

Inbox

Dear Hon. Ian Callinan AC,

I have resided around Kings Cross for almost two decades. I am a professional, in a relationship and with high level of volunteer commitments. I am not a drinker, nor a party-goer. However, I feel strongly against the "Sydney lock-out laws".

Kings Cross, with all his challenges was a hub that made Sydney an international city with a 24/7 heart. I am still amazed at the impact that the law has had in the last 12 months transforming the area in almost a ghost town at night, paradoxically making it feel more unsafe.

As someone who hardly drinks and very rarely goes out (and pretty much never in Kings Cross), I am witnessing the impact beyond the club scene. Some of our favourite restaurants have been closing down. Other businesses are obviously feeling the pinch. You hardly see backpackers (and their \$\$\$) around the area.

We know of families going bankrupted because their businesses are no longer profitable but their leases lock them in for longer tenancies. We have friends and acquaintances in the hospitality business who have lost jobs and who have to settle for less paid ones, if lucky to find something.

What I also find indecent is the exclusion of the Casino from these laws. It speaks volumes about who is benefiting from this. If a venue can be trusted to manage their security in and around it, then the same opportunity should be offered to other businesses. Otherwise the law must apply to everyone in the area, no exclusions.

As a resident I am also witnessing the speeding up of property development in the area. Some of these projects/approvals must have in the making for years. So, it looks oddly coincidental that the Cross is being 'cleaned up' just when all these projects are finally ready to go on offer to potential buyers.

My believe is that the government should focus on law enforcement and, more importantly, in public education to the youth that drinking is not 'cool'. Expectations should be put on businesses and only the ones not conforming should be punished. Not a blanket killing of very decent and honest businesses.

The death of those two young men in the Cross was a very sad and unnecessary. But what has been the financial and social impact on tens of thousands of residents? Was it worth it? Is it acceptable? The response was an emotional and opportunistic over-reaction. It should be clear now that the negative impact is outdoing the positive outcomes.

Please bring Sydney back to live for all!

Kind Regards

Giovanni

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