

Individual Submission: Patrick Carmody

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As a bartender and former bar manager who is on the front line of avoiding and deescalating alcohol related violence I can firmly say the lockout laws are not the right answer for this problem. Greater training for hospitality staff, improved affordable late night transport options and an increased proactive approach to police work that worked with venues and the community rather than against them would all serve to make Sydney a safer place. Measures that allow people to stay out and enjoy themselves for as long as they'd like and ensuring they are able to easily, safely and affordably get home would be a lot more effective than giving them the bums rush onto the street at 3am (taxi changeover time). This just creates large crowds of people who have been drinking and regardless of their level of intoxication will inevitably lead to noise, antisocial behaviour and fights.

The night time economy has suffered immensely with world renown music venues that formed a launchpad and testing ground for some of Sydney's best musical talent dying by the dozens. Not to mention the associated businesses in the lockout zone that survived because of the late night foot traffic in the area; something that has decreased by a much larger degree than alcohol related violence in the area. As taxi drivers, newsagents and restaurant will all attest to, the lockout laws are not just effecting bars, pubs and clubs but the surrounding businesses that use late night trade to squeeze a slim profit out of running a business in the CBD.

The lockout laws are unfair, undemocratic and ultimately breach the fundamental human rights of the people of Sydney. By enforcing broad closures of licensed venues, known as "public houses" for a very good reason, in a central area of Sydney the lockout laws have impinged on people's right to peaceful association, to enjoy rest and leisure and freely participate in the cultural life of the community; rights declared universal and fundamental by the United Nations.

People are entitled to socialise and enjoy their city's cultural outputs regardless of the time, an idea embraced by truly vibrant and forward thinking international cities such as Melbourne, London, New York and Berlin through either appointment of "Night Mayors" or other initiatives to support the night time economy rather than stifle it. As politicians advocating for lower penalty rates have told us, the world has become an economy working 24/7, 7 days a week. The entertainment and hospitality industries are key to maximising the economic and cultural output of our city. A truly global city exist if people cannot enter a venue after 1:30 AM.

Serious thought and planning needs to occur for a truly viable mitigation plan for alcohol related violence, that does not unfairly punish law abiding business owners and people looking for a good time but provides entertainment in the safest way possible. Blanket, knee jerk solutions are not the answer and will always create policies without an even balance of attention to both

public safety and people's freedoms.

Regards,
Patrick Carmody

