

Lockout Laws

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

Hi,

I have lived in NSW for 27 years. I have worked in Redfern, Surry Hills and Darlinghurst and have lived in Kings Cross for 4 years. I have studied in Ultimo and I am currently a resident of Lewisham.

The lockout laws seem to me to be a step in the wrong direction in tackling the problem of alcohol fueled violence in our city.

The government should be attempting to address Sydneys drunken culture in a constructive way. For example, harsher penalties on repeat offenders, better education on the dangers of alcohol abuse, programs to reform alcoholics and violent offenders and more police on our streets during peak periods of assaults.

Only recently I was shocked to learn of a violent offender, Haze Aupori being let off with a 12 month good behaviour bond and a 12 month suspended sentence for a brutal and terrifying assault on a hotel manager. It is criminal sentencing like this which send the message that Sydney is tolerant of random drunken violence, which i believe is the main contributing factor to the violence in our city.

I would personally regard the new laws as a failed policy, they have not addressed the root causes of violence in our city. People are still getting attacked in and around the city, with assaults on hens nights and major brawls in the street still occurring despite the laws. The policies have also had extremely debilitating effects on the night time economy, which I personally have watched decline.

Finally, the way that the laws funnel late night drinkers into Star city casino is abhorrent and by far the worst part of the reforms. The social wreckage that gambling creates is immense and it is disgusting that our own government would provide unreliable public transport as to almost force people into the Star. If nothing else the entire city should be under the same blanket reforms. No exemptions for anyone.

Reforms that adversely impact on business and restrict the freedoms of citizens have no place in Sydney, I urge you to consider alternative methods of combatting binge drinking, or at the very least include the Casino in the lockout area.

Clancy