

Liquor Law Review - the impact to a Darlinghurst resident

AC Andrew Cavallaro [REDACTED]

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Dear Liquor Law Review,

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you how the Lock Out laws, and other associated laws have impacted my life, in an attempt to highlight what I believe are the 'over-the-top' nature of the current laws.

I am a 29 year-old male who lives on [REDACTED] I live with my partner (aged 35). I am lucky that the vast majority of my friends live within walking distance of my home - mostly living within Darlinghurst, Potts Point and Surry Hills. We regularly enjoy nights out with our friends - whether that be at the bars and restaurants within our area, or at each other's houses.

On many occasions we as a group of friends have gone out for dinner (usually an 8pm sitting), and have found that following our dinner we would like to go back to one of our friend's houses to enjoy a few more glasses of wine and continue chatting. If we find ourselves leaving the restaurant after 10pm, we subsequently find ourselves unable to purchase wine from a bottle shop, which normally means we need to change or cancel our plans. As I'm sure you are aware, the 10pm bottle shop law has only encouraged the sale of alcohol to go underground, with several 'questionable' suppliers utilising online takeaway booking websites to deliver alcohol to private homes in secret. Surely there is a better solution to this law, that doesn't encourage underground sales. I certainly don't think bottle shops need to be open after midnight, but 10pm is simply too early, and only punishes those that are responsible. Perhaps as a middle ground bottle shops can only sell alcohol to persons aged 25+ between 10pm and midnight? I'm presuming here of course that the majority of incidents occur when youth (those aged 18-25 under) are intoxicated.

I'd also like to highlight how embarrassing it is to have to tell an international client or visitor that our night needs to come to an end because we've missed the Lock Out law cut-off. I regularly host international visitors - whether they be work clients or friends/family. And regularly we'll be out at events and functions that finish late. It is simply embarrassing that Sydney - a supposed world-class 24/7 city - does not allow its residents and visitors to go out past 1:30am, if they aren't already in the venue that they wish to spend the rest of their evening in. I've had international clients request that I host industry events in Melbourne instead of

Sydney, purely because they are shocked by Sydney's strict laws. Is this really conducive to supporting Sydney's economy - I think not. In fact I've even noticed Melbourne advertising on Facebook, promoting its nightlife as being superior to Sydney's, and telling Sydneysiders that if they want a night out they need to travel to Melbourne.

I also don't believe that the law that prevent more than two drinks at a time being bought after 1am is effective. All it does is aggravate everyone (both patrons and bar staff), and means that if you need to buy a round of drinks, you simply take more of your friends to the bar with you and get them to help you complete multiple transactions with your card/cash. It doesn't stop people drinking. It just makes everyone aggravated and clogs up the bar area.

These are just a few examples. I understand why the government took action, however I do believe these laws to be excessive. It is unfortunate that the vast majority suffer because of a few stupid idiots. I'd suggest a more middle-ground approach to the laws and greater policing will be far more effective, without further damaging Sydney's reputation and economy.

Kind regards,
Andrew

Andrew Cavallaro

