

Submission from a local resident

cc Christina Chiu [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Mon 6:21 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

My family and I have lived in Woolloomooloo for over 20 years. We have observed flourishing restaurant and bar scene, the "clean up" of Kings Cross and a number of small businesses opening in our community. We have stayed living the community due to the cross section of demographics - families in housing estates, university students, young professionals, artists, the homeless community, and like us, established families.

I am in my late 20s, and moved overseas to pursue my post graduate degree around the time the lock out laws were implemented. When I came home to visit, the contrast was stark. The inner city once full of energy has now gone. Many of the small businesses which have been standing for years have since closed, dance clubs which have been open for decades are shut.

I by no means binge drink. I do however like a dance with friends every few months. I have walked home from Darlinghurst, Kings Cross, and the CBD from a night out dancing with friends feeling sober, safe and without incident. Of course, I am not saying that alcohol fueled violence does not exist. I am, however saying, my experiences are the experiences of the majority.

This type of legislation is short sighted. A city's nightlife provides depths of subcultures, diversity, modes of artistic expression. Although I'm mostly not a participant, I recognise the importance of these subcultures for creative thinking, letting people have the right to have different experiences. Preventing the majority of people from drinking / entering venues could be one way curbing alcohol fueled violence caused by the few - but at what cost? Our freedom, artistic outlets, local businesses?

Provide a larger police presence, change the drinking culture, spread awareness - these are all other ways to curb alcohol fueled violence.

Being in the local community, living in the heart of where the lockout laws affected the most, the lock out laws are taking away our local businesses, our youth's freedom, and our community's energy and diversity.

Best Regards,

Christina Chiu

