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# lockout laws

MC millicent churcher 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Fri 1/04

Inbox

To Whom it May Concern,

To date the Government's justification for the lockout laws has rested on a false dilemma between saving lives and reducing hospital casualties on the one hand, and maintaining a vibrant nightlife on the other. However, the two are NOT mutually exclusive. I sincerely hope the review board takes seriously the recommendations from groups such as Keep Sydney Open that have made meaningful attempts to develop strategies which aim to preserve Sydney's late night culture whilst keeping people safe.

Furthermore, even if we accept the (highly questionable) empirical claim that these laws have had the effect of reducing street violence across Sydney, we must ask *at what cost* this has been achieved. Undeniably, these laws have come at a great cost not only to a plethora of bars, restaurants and small business, but also to their many employees, who are now faced with the prospect of trying to re-enter a difficult job market.

Whilst I am not confident that the collective, reasonable and mature voice of Sydney citizens will prevail over political agenda and the power of lobbyists, I'm nevertheless hopeful.

Best,  
Millicent Churcher.