

Submission to the Review of the Liquor Amendment Act 2014 by the Hon. IDF Callinan AC QC

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[REDACTED] on behalf of Matt Costain [REDACTED]



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From: Matt Costain, [REDACTED]

As a Sydney resident and a peaceful participant in our nightlife, I am writing to you because I have personally experienced the impacts that the lockout laws have had on our city. Businesses have closed, jobs lost, damage to international reputation, and loss of safe places to socialise and be entertained, and increasingly witnessing declining opportunities to listen to and dance to live, local and international music.

I personally have suffered financially. I tour and promote international electronic music acts, and have had to cancel, or reschedule tours due to lack of venues. I've lost thousands of dollars as a result.

Everyone wants the streets to be safer. The lockouts were introduced as a poor knee jerk political reaction to media sensationalism. Common sense suggests that a better planned response could have a greater effect on reducing alcohol-related violence without having the unintended consequences that the lockout laws have had.

The statistics, and indeed our own government had indicated Sydney was a safe city by international standards, and non-domestic violence within the greater Sydney area, and indeed the entertainment precincts was on the decline for a number of years.

The arbitrary definition of the lockout boundaries is farcical and preserves the interests of the rich (ie, the Casino and Barangaroo)

One of the major tools that the NSW Government and City of Sydney have used to justify the lockout legislation has been through misquoting and manipulation of their own official statistics and research. The paper written by Fulde et al. (2015) is cited by pro-lockout proponents as the key evidence supporting the lockout laws yet Fulde appears to have vested interests in maintaining the lockout laws.

Dr. Fulde has been a founding director of the Thomas Kelly Youth Foundation since December 17th 2012, an organisation that is bankrolled by Crown Casino, the owner of Crown Casino, Macquarie Bank- substantial shareholder & investment bank of Star Casino, the NSW Premier's office- legislator of the lockout laws and City of Sydney.

Our premier, Mike Baird has been proven to misuse statistics defending the lockouts.

There are hugely suspicious links between those involved in policy, the government and those who gain the most from the lockouts.

The lockouts appear to serve a small minority, while punishing those law abiding businesses and citizens. The people inside the venues are not violent. Venues themselves are safe. Those attending late night events from my experience are not the problem.

The lock-out laws have caused irreparable damage to the economic, social and cultural fabric of Sydney. Instead of the 1:30am lockout and 3.00am cease of service, the 7 key actions below should be implemented together to curb the violence and keep Sydney open for all to enjoy.

- 1 Immediate reversal of the 1:30am lockout and 3:00am last drinks
2. Developing best-practice policing strategies;
- 3 Investing in 24/7 public transport;
- 4 Implementing integrated urban planning reform;
- 5 Encouraging diversification of after-dark activities;
- 6 Establishing anti-violence education & intervention campaigns;
- 7 Incentivising well-run venues

SIGNED: Matt Costain, , 4 APRIL 2016