

Submission to the Callinan Inquiry on Liquor Laws

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

The Hon. Ian Callinan AC QC

Dear Sir,

I would like to make a submission to be considered in your Inquiry on Liquor Laws.

The underlying assumption of these laws is that if a single life is saved, it justifies any restriction to personal freedoms. I fundamentally disagree with this assumption.

So does most of our society, judging by the policy decisions we make in other areas.

Over 1,000 people die Australia's roads every year. If we really want to reduce deaths, why waste our time on lock-out laws? Ban cars instead.

A few hundred Australians die each year from staph infections that they acquire in hospitals. I'm outraged that we put up with such egregious disregard for the health and safety of our citizens. Hospitals need to be closed.

The point is we're moving further and further down a slippery slope of populist politics which disregards the substantial benefits of personal freedoms.

I'm happy to run the very slim risk of dying in a car accident or getting a staph infection because cars and hospitals have enormous benefits for me which outweigh these costs.

Likewise, I'll take the chance of being a victim of alcohol related violence because enjoying a night out with friends provides substantial benefits to me. I know a lot of others feel the same.

We can't continue implementing policies which consider only the negative outcomes of meaningful nightlife. There are real cultural, societal and economic benefits which need to be protected.

So before you tell Australians that we're not allowed to enjoy a night out, how about getting doctors to wash their hands first.

Regards,

Michael Dean
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