

My Experience

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

Hi,

Why is it that my friends and I have had the pleasure of going out at night and consuming large quantities of alcohol, yet have never thrown a punch or been involved in a any violent activity? It's because we are typical party goers - looking to have a good time.

Why is it that on Mardi Gras 2016, there were countless police and security present, and every other weekend there is practically nothing? If we ramped up police presence, and established a healthy relationship between the public and police, then there would be less assaults.

It is clear that lock out laws are not an effective solution when most of the assaults take place before midnight. There are many people who go out with the objective to start a fight - why not target these individuals?

I've often discussed with my friends the idea of a "alcohol permit" card, and much like a driver's licence, there are demerit points you can accumulate (maybe three points max). Misbehaviour (offensive conduct) might be one point. Assault someone and you lose your permission to go out at night and drink.

I think stigmatising alcohol by restricting consumption, placing heavy laws that impact small business and the culture/night life of a once vibrant city is wrong. European countries do not have the same problems we have, yet they start their children drinking from 12 or even younger. Look at Austria; you can walk from one venue to the next with drink in hand, and there are plenty of revellers drinking in the streets at night, all enjoying themselves.

Clearly alcohol is the scape goat for a wider attitude problem, which isn't going to be rectified by ridiculous laws which don't really prevent degenerate, violence inclined members of society from assaulting who they please at any time of day, under the influence of alcohol or not.

Thank you for reading
Luke Dirckze