

Lockout Review

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

My name is Jack, I am a 26 year old law abiding Newtown resident that works full time. To begin with I would like to say these laws have pushed the problem into the surrounding suburbs, people flock here to the larger bars that are not effected by lockout laws, the bars fill up and they have nothing to do. I've lived here on and off for the past 5 yrs and there has never been as many hostile aggressive men as now.

It didn't really dawn on me until about 12 months ago the extent these laws have damaged Sydney's reputation internationally. I had friends visiting from Finland that had lived here in Sydney for several years before the introduction of the lockout laws. They stayed at my house, I wanted to be a fun host and show them some nice new venues or clubs. To my surprise at the time, there really wasn't anything new to recommend. The venues my guest previously enjoyed didn't exist anymore. They're all gone. The ones left are on thin ice, and don't have much time before they have to fold.

I'm quite a well travelled person, and not for a moment would I deny Australia has an issue with violence. We do, it exists and it needs to be addressed in a more mature thought out way rather than this absolute approach. I can't even go to a Swans game which was great fun as for my visiting Finish friends, that finishes at 10:30 and get a bottle of wine, or a few beers to have at a friends house. So I could take them to a small bar that has to close at 12, would be lucky to get an entire hour there. I would like to say, make it an absolute necessity to free up restrictions on small bars, they cause no issue for locals I have a lot around me they are the safest places to drink. They should be able to trade past 12.

My friends left Sydney very disappointed, doubting they will return. In an ideal world I would want these laws removed entirely, but I am realistic about other peoples concerns and why some people would be in favour of them. But this was a drastic response, they need to be redesigned, there needs to be exemptions and lots of them need to be thrown out, I can't even buy a scotch on the rocks past 12.

There are so many things wrong with these laws.