

# Lock Out Effect on Entertainment Industry Employment.

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

Hi There,

Hope this finds you well.

I understand the liquor laws are currently under review, so thought I would send through my experience on both a business and personal level. I've lived in inner-city Sydney for most of my life, with a few years in the US and the UK in-between. I attended Macquarie University to complete a Bachelor's degree in Creative Arts and have been a working musician and entertainment programmer / venue consultant for the past 5 years at the highly respected entertainment company [REDACTED]

We currently handle entertainment bookings at the Kings Cross Hotel, a venue that has remained resilient despite a dramatic fall in revenue. From our end, bookings and opportunities for bands, DJs, engineers and promoters have dropped by at least 50% since the laws came into effect. This result has been echoed throughout every venue we've worked with in the City and surrounding areas impacted by the lockouts.

I believe there is a direct correlation between the steep decline in opportunities for people working in the live entertainment industry, and the hard line approach taken to addressing the (fundamentally cultural) issue of violence in the City. We work with venues as far as Penrith, who are also dealing with this issue of violence on a regular basis, however they do not have such harsh restrictions imposed on their business so they're continuing to trade as normal, while they minimise aggressive behaviour from patrons.

As a resident of Darlinghurst, we've seen a huge reduction in people socialising in the area, which is nice if you want to live in a nice quiet suburb, but this area has been a vibrant, creative and inspiring hub for decades - my father also grew up in the area and worked as a professional musician for many years, he's astounded at how effective the laws have been at destroying a once exciting entertainment precinct.

I truly hope some compromise is made from the Government when they meet with the Keep Sydney Open organisers. They have provided well thought out and researched solutions to these issues, and I would love to see their recommendations approved, with the focus being on supporting the live music community in the area.

Best Regards,

Adrian Leighton.