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# Nanny state

AD Andrew Duncan 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Fri 1/04

Inbox

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in  for 11 years. I travel extensively overseas to many great cities of the world.

The last three years has seen Sydney become a joke when you compare it to anyone of NY, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Berlin.

These places have huge populations, thriving tourism, complex social issues and yet they seem to be able to strike a balance between the need for sensible laws that protect youth and vulnerable elements of society and the need for licensed premises with adequate controls to operate on extended hours for the relaxation and enjoyment of 99% of the population.

The current approach is condescending and short sighted - it needs greater balance. The drop in violent incidents is fantastic, the loss of income and economic prosperity for bar, restaurant and entertainment venues is however a cost that needs consideration - as is the loss of a global city status.

Melbourne will soon take over in population terms and Sydney will rapidly lose its relevance in a rapidly changing world - if we insist on a society that's not prepared to live and live.

Tourism relies on repeat business and the current philosophy of pandering to people that have not been out for dinner or a drink past 8pm in years is short sighted and doesn't go to the heart of the issue.

Reward good venues with later licenses, penalise those with bad with early ones/more staff. Don't shut industry and areas based on indiscriminate violence.

Andrew Duncan