



Submission

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Submission to the review

Yes, we do need to see a "safe Sydney" - but not a "deceased Sydney". I previously lived in Darlinghurst and now in Elizabeth Bay - and walking around here at night is like a morgue. The lockout laws were a sledgehammer used to kill a nut. The actions of a few rogues have impacted on the other 99% of law abiding citizens. I have just returned recently from London, New York, and New Orleans - and sorry, but we live in a nanny state here. Visit Europe (France, Germany et al) too. None of those places have any laws that even vaguely approach the draconian regulations we have here. It's now embarrassing to our visitors too. The ridiculous situation of a Paddington wine bar being visited by NSW Police for an "anti-social wine by the glass list" is simply pathetic and ridiculous.

Our issue is more cultural - educating younger kids about alcohol excesses and acceptable behaviour earlier in life, better visible policing on the streets, as well as far better RSA enforcement, plus a few other integrated solutions come to mind. I am quite sure there are plenty of ways to minimise any violence without a draconian one-size-fits-all solution that we now have. And then we have the St Vincents doctor telling people to go and drink at the casino - gee, what a responsible person he is... (not).

I believe that a large part of the problem is the way we highly tax alcohol to supposedly try to reduce consumption. That doesn't work. Why? Because (and I know this because I have two girls in their late teens and early 20's) the price of alcohol is now so high in pubs and clubs that the kids "pre-load" before they go out. And closing bottle shops earlier doesn't help - they just pre-plan their purchases. So rather than what happened when I was younger, you would go out and progressively drink over the evening, the kids are now "well-oiled" before they ever see the inside of any pub or club. That's clearly a recipe for problems. Prohibition never worked, and pricing it out of reach won't work either. Even as an adult I cringe at the prices they charge just for a beer - frequently over \$10. It's crazy.

So, yes we want a safe Sydney, but not a Sydney that is like Brussels or Zurich. We want a city with a dynamic night life, where I can go and have a drink late at night after I've been to the theatre or friends for dinner and not be treated like an irresponsible child. Come down like a ton of bricks on violence (no issues whatsoever), but also allow the rest of us to enjoy our lives as we want in peace. If the rest of the major cities in the world can do it, so can we.

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