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Response to Lock Out Laws

LG Leona Gibbons 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Sat 2/04

Inbox

To whom it may concern

I am writing in response to the Lock Out Laws currently in place in select locations throughout the Sydney Metropolitan area.

I'm a 36 year old female, with an honours degree in Business studies and French. I live in Paddington and work as an events organiser, currently for the health food chain About Life, and previously for food rescue charity, OzHarvest. I'm an Australian citizen and have lived in Sydney for 7.5 years, since October 2008.

I am writing to oppose the lock out laws, and request they are abolished.

My understanding is that the laws were a response to 2 random acts of violence, both that took place before 1.30am. Had the lockouts been in place at the time of these two tragedies, they wouldn't have been prevented. What might have prevented these tragic deaths, is more police presence, more cctv, faster response times, more responsibility from venues, and more frequent and varied means of transport.

I strongly believe that a staggered exit from venues leads to safer streets. Rather than disgruntled patrons roaming the streets en masse at 1.30am and then again at 3am.

I believe that the laws regarding venues and intoxication are also counter productive to safer streets. Throwing out or turning away patrons that have had one too many is asking for trouble. Venues and their security teams should have a reasonable responsibility to care for their customers. Give them water, food, a safe place to sober up and call them a cab or alert their designated driver.

It could be a legal requirement that patrons can't enter a venue without signing in with ID, a Sydney address and an emergency contact, so that if they become intoxicated or aggressive, that emergency contact is called to collect them, or the venue can send them home in a cab to the address provided on entry (or the hospital if needs be).

Certain venues could also be required to have first aiders on hand at peak times, and/or have their licence fee increased to cover the cost of more police presence or increased public transport. It is ridiculous that you cannot get a train home to bondi junction after 1.30am. I

actually feel more vulnerable walking the streets of Sydney at night since the lockouts have been put in place.

With regards to the 10pm bottle shop closure, it is important to remember that not everyone works a 9-5 office/government job where they are able to pick up a 6 pack of beer or bottle of wine on their way home from work. Doctors, nurses, police, social workers, wait staff, cinema workers, super market check out staff, bus drivers... All valuable members of our community, should be entitled to pick up a drop on their way home from work. And not everyone earns a politician's salary so can't necessarily afford to keep a well stocked bar at home. On pay day, it isn't unreasonable they might want to purchase a case of beer for the week after a long shift.

In summary, there are numerous solutions to make Sydney's streets safer. The lock out laws are not it.

If you need any clarification or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Leona Gibbons

Sent from my iPhone