

Review Comments

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

To The Review Panel,

Typical Sydney party goers are looking to have a good time. I have been going out every weekend for the last ten years and have never been involved in a fight and never will be.

The vast majority of party goers are not looking to cause trouble but the few who are, generally go out from the start with that intention. They see violence as a way of having a good time which is why most of the one punch attacks are happen early in the evening well before the lock outs are even in place. In a lot of cases I wouldn't be surprised if these individuals are sober and not under the influence of alcohol. Why are we punishing the vast majority and not these few? Just recently a judge let off an individual, caught on CCTV, for a incredible violent unprovoked assault on a bar manager. These people need a wake up call before they kill someone.

Why is it that on New Years Eve or Mardi Gras, there were countless police and security present and very few incidents? Every other weekend there is practically nothing. The police are far more concerned with inspecting venues which are already under the watch of security instead of patrolling the streets where they are needed, and all of the fatal incidents occur.

It is clear that lock out laws are not an effective solution when most of the assaults take place before midnight and on the street outside venues. The times I have witnessed scuffles they have mostly been related to large groups, who are not allowed into venues, wondering the street in search of a way home. The lack of taxis and public transport from hot spots and out of the city later in the evening is a major flaw. This has been highlighted countless times by the industry yet the government has made zero effort to address the issue. Every other international city provides 24 hour transport out of the city and they certainly don't have lock outs like the ones in place here.

The laws and taxes placed on alcohol are incredible restrictive compared to other countries. When the Rudd government raised taxes on alcohol they actually made the binge drinking culture worse. Instead of starting the night early in the city (sober), young people are now staying home much later where they "pre-load" in order to save money once they arrive. A beer in some bars and clubs is now close to \$12 and spirits (with a lower volume of alcohol than beer) even higher which was a direct result of the increased taxes. European countries do not have the same problems we have, yet they start their children drinking even younger.

A friend of mine summed up the issue nicely with the follow quote: "Clearly alcohol is the scape goat for a wider attitude problem, which isn't going to be rectified by ridiculous laws which don't really prevent degenerate, violence inclined members of society from assaulting who they please at any time of day, under the influence of alcohol or not."

I appreciated you taking the time to read this.

Regards,

Jack Gibson