

Lockout law disappointment

Michael Gilligan [REDACTED]

Wed 30/03/2016 2:51 PM

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

To Whom it may concern,

I wanted to take the opportunity to voice my dissatisfaction with the lockout laws introduced in Feb 2014 and the negative affects they have had on Sydney since. I am a mid-30's professional that has lived in or near the city for most of my adult life and the negative impact on Sydney's culture and nightlife has been drastic to say the least. Prior to the new laws, going out to meet friends, see live music and have a dance was so much easier and with so many more options. The laws have affected not just the venues that traded late into the next morning but also the nearby bars, restaurants and businesses. If people could no longer go to a nightclub in the area, the local bars were less populated and therefore so were the restaurants to the point where once vibrant areas are now ghost towns that certainly don't feel safer.

I'm sure you will perform due diligence in analysing valid statistics but it has been clear that many of the statistics publicised by the government and pro lock-out lobbyists are terribly misused or downright misleading. The simple reality to anyone that looks at the statistics in detail is that Sydney was seeing a year on year reduction in violence and we were not a dangerous city in crisis. Sydney had a couple of tragic events caused by idiots (that the lock-out laws would not have prevented) followed by a true media beat up and knee-jerk political reaction. While the areas under the lock-out restrictions lowered this year on year violence rate further, when you factor in the reduced traffic in those areas in any scientific way and factor in surrounding areas violence increase, a reasonable person would have to call the laws a failure in their aim of reducing violence. When an area has a 64% reduction in foot traffic and only a 40% reduction in violence, that is a net increase per capita and that doesn't even consider the expected year on year reduction.

The lock out laws have been a failure in reducing violence, they have only moved the problem.

The lock out laws have ruined a city that I loved to go out in, not just on the nights I wanted to be out past 2am but on many other nights due to the impact on related businesses and areas.

The lock out laws are not equal in providing exemptions for casinos and other gambling establishments. (And on this – 1 in 5 suicides is attributed to gambling, with 750-800 suicides annually in NSW alone, I would suggest gambling is a much bigger societal issue than alcohol related violence yet this is promoted.)

Please reconsider the strategies with which we manage and reduce alcohol related violence. The methods taken so far are both non-effective and have massive side effects.

Regards

Michael Gilligan
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