

Down with the lock-out laws!

PG Philippa Green [REDACTED]



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To: Liquor Law Review; ▾

Mon 11:38 PM

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Hi,

I am really sad that firstly, the lock-out laws were even implemented, and secondly that they have stuck around for so long and caused so much irreversible damage to the businesses and people of Sydney.

I have worked in bars for over a decade to support myself through university. I have worked in numerous nightclubs and bars around Kings Cross and many in other suburbs. The best thing after finishing a long day at uni and then working a long shift in a bar, was to go out and have fun with my friends. Unfortunately due to the lock-out laws, even working in a bar that closes at midnight meant that I missed out on going out to meet my friends, as it would generally take an hour or two to clean up.

This might not seem like a big thing, but it really cuts out the social life of many people who work in hospitality. Going out and meeting people is something that is good for your soul, it is good to wind-down after a long week of work, studying, interning or any of the many things people do.

Not only does it cut this opportunity out for a lot of people, but the lock-out meant that most of the bars and nightclubs in Sydney have closed down and destroyed the livelihood of lots of hospitality staff and business owners. After the lock-out, for the bars that did stay open, shifts were much shorter and there were fewer of them going around.

Of course I can understand why many people don't care about the lock-outs. For people living in the Kings Cross area for example, their house prices have gone up and many of the people living in the area would have stopped going out a long time ago due to their age bracket. However, just because one segment of society did not make much noise over the lockout laws, does not mean that the lock-out laws were a popular or positive legislative step. As somebody who has travelled extensively around the world and partied in other cities, it is quite sad and embarrassing when visitors come to Sydney and they are gob-smacked at the nanny-state and abysmal and uninspiring nightlife we have created. Additionally, often with nightlife comes art and music scenes which are being quashed as a knock-on effect of these ridiculous laws.

The introduction of the lock-out laws was ostensibly to reduce alcohol-fuelled violence. This seems laughable to me and the fact that Star City Casino now has the highest rate of alcohol-

fuelled violence in the city is strong evidence to support that these laws were not to prevent violence. Logically, if they were, then Star City would be included in the lock-out laws.

It is unfortunate that two young men were killed in Kings Cross as a result of violence. However, the laws that were enacted as a knee-jerk reaction to their deaths, were wrong. They do not work, they are ruining our city, our nightlife, the chance for young people to get out and meet each other, the music scene etc.. I could go on.

Please stop these laws - or I think Sydney will be a worse place for it.

Sincerely,
Philippa Green