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Feedback for the Lockout Laws

G

Guy 

To: Liquor Law Review; 



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4:15 AM

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Hi

The Sydney lock-out laws need to be revised and significantly altered. The laws were created to try and mitigate the tragic loss of life and general violence levels present on the streets of Kings Cross and one-punch assaults that were occurring.

The laws have succeeded in making Kings Cross far quieter, with a significant reduction in violence, but a proportionally higher level of violence when measuring the number of incidents vs. the number of pedestrians on these same streets before and after these laws (as percentages go).

As such, they have made the lives of staff at St Vincent's Hospital far easier, but they only had a relatively small impact to the levels of violence occurring on the streets. This is in part because the key incidents that happened were incidents that happened on the streets, not in the venues where alcohol was far better moderated and controlled, whereas the streets lacked sufficient policing to help avoid such incidents.

There was a measured increase in rise in violence around Sydney Casino, Newtown and various other areas after the laws were introduced, even if for Newtown these affects were not longer term, but this helped to demonstrate that the alcohol fuelled violence was not being addressed, only dispersed. Sydney Casino, a venue measured as one of the most violent in Sydney has remained exempt from these laws, which showed the public that if you have a sufficient number of customers and provide sufficient funding to the state that these laws need not apply to you, rather than it being about curbing such violence. Much of the decrease that occurred over this same period in time was merely following a down-ward trend that pre-existed the lock out laws, which means that in the areas with these laws in force they were only seeing a minor improvement over what they otherwise would have seen.

Further to the above one-punch assaults are still occurring, the culture driving alcohol-fuelled violence has not seen any real changes and the key victims of these laws are law-abiding citizens of Sydney (and tourists) who were not the cause of these violent incidents in the first place. Further to this iconic institutions, primarily in Kings Cross and Oxford Street, businesses that had a long history of themselves following the law and being without incident being victim to these laws, resulting in not only a reduction in the diversity of what our previously great city offered but a significant increase in unemployment for those in the hospitality industry.

In addition to this many talented chefs, su-chefs, musicians and artists that Sydney took in some cases decades to help mature have been driven to Melbourne and other cities where alcohol-fuelled violence has been managed by the government in a way that targets the guilty and lets the rest of the community be treated as they should be, mature adults capable of making their own decisions and enjoying themselves without incident. Importantly in these places, where there are those who are more irresponsible, the public benefits from increased safety from these individuals, with them being dealt with by venues and security staff, individuals who may otherwise end up on the streets, individuals would then be free to act as they wish (where insufficient policing exists) rather than individuals managed under the supervision of those running licensed venues.

The hospitality and music industry have come out strongly supporting a desire for a decrease in violence, so these industries are far from against measures being put in place to prevent violence, but these measures should exist to prevent violence, not to prevent people having the chance to live their lives peacefully in the company of others and enjoying the best that Sydney

has to offer. So please revise these laws so they address what is really the root cause of the issue here, rather than lock out those who are just as against the violence themselves and just want to enjoy a night out!

Kind Regards
Guy