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Liquor Review: Remove the Lock Out Laws

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To: Liquor Law Review; Cc: [Redacted]

Mon 4/04

Saved submissions

I am sure that you will be receiving a great number of analytical submissions, some of which have been published and eloquently capture the views that I share. Accordingly, I wanted to provide a much simpler submission around how much I view Sydney as having deteriorated as a city to live in in recent years.

Originally from Adelaide I have lived in and visited Sydney and Melbourne for many years. We moved to Sydney a little over two years ago and at the time would proudly espouse, as an independent observer, that we preferred to live in Sydney.

Despite many natural advantages, I can now safely say that Melbourne, and Adelaide for that matter (during certain times of the year), are much more vibrant and enjoyable cities to live in.

Sydney has become incredibly draconian, can only be perceived as being run by an incredible undercurrent of conflict of interest (at best) and/or corruption (at worst).

The only evening in Sydney that I have observed in recent years as having the vibrancy that a city of this size deserves was the recent Mardi Gras. We weren't even out after mid-night, and rarely are, but the lock out laws have stolen this vibrancy which once existed around the city even at earlier times in an evening.

I am supportive of limited licensing in certain areas, but the city needs to late night vibrancy, late night trading. I see no reason why responsible venues should not be able to have 24 hour licensing on the weekends. The city should be providing 24 hour public transport on the weekend and encourage and allow more diverse forms of late night trading. Government should be looking to models around the world in major cities that have had success in fostering after dark economies, not looking at draconian measures to constrain such economies or funnel people to gambling venues.

In fact, after a late night dinner with clients recently, and being after 1:30 lock out, we ended up at Star Casino. This was a first for me. This is by far the saddest venue that I have visited in NSW. Very little about this experience had to do with socialising. It is a disgrace that this is the net outcome of the lock out laws.

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