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# Liquor law review - submission

DH

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To: Liquor Law Review; ▾

Mon 4/04

Saved submissions

As a Sydney resident and a peaceful participant of its once vibrant nightlife, I am grateful for the opportunity to make this submission. I am writing to you because I have personally experienced the impacts that the lockout laws have had on our city – I have seen businesses close, witnessed the loss of jobs, lamented the lack of places to socialise with my friends and mourned the dwindling opportunities to listen to live, local music, and been forced to defend the city when critiqued by overseas visitors.

We all agree that safe streets are a priority, but there are better ways to achieve this. Evidence and common sense suggests that a better planned response could have a greater effect on reducing alcohol-related violence *without* having the unintended consequences that the lockout laws have had.

I recently hosted 20 visitors from London as I held by marriage ceremony here. Whilst all agreed the city was great in the day, they all agreed they felt like they were breaking the law simply by drinking in a pub at 1am, as the city became a ghost town and they were prevented from even being able to order a whiskey on the rocks in an award winning whiskey bar, the Baxter inn. These visitors are professionals - from hospital managers to global procurement specialists, and all could not believe that a city with the 'name' of Sydney felt more like the Middle East than a global city with colonial roots.

If this is the direction intended for the city as wanted by the majority, that is fine, however, my visitors have said they themselves only need to visit a picture postcard once, and wouldn't visit Sydney again when other cities, including Melbourne, offer so much more - that the story they were told about Australia being a place of carefree attitudes, and fair go origins is false.

From a personal perspective I am feeling the same - as a senior lawyer in the city, originally from the UK, in a global market Sydney is starting to come up short and there is less reason for me to stay, when cities like New York, Amsterdam and even my home town of London are making progress with changes to their nightlife to maintain their position as . Sydney should be aiming for these cities as a target, rather than being the laughing stock it is becoming when I talk to my friends.

## What needs to change?

I agree with those that say that the lock-out laws have caused irreparable damage to the economic, social and cultural fabric of Sydney. Instead of the 1:30am lockout and 3.00am cease of service, the **7 key actions** below should be implemented together to curb the violence and keep Sydney open for all to enjoy.

1 Developing best-practice **policing** strategies;

- 2 Investing in 24/7 public **transport**;
- 3 Implementing integrated urban **planning reform**;
- 4 Encouraging diversification of **after-dark activities**;
- 5 Establishing anti-violence **education & intervention** campaigns;
- 6 **Incentivising well-run venues**; and
- 7 Appointing a **Night Mayor**

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Harris

