

Lockout Law Feedback

CH Carly Hawkins [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review; 

8:35 AM

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to whom it may concern;

I am writing to submit my feedback on the lockout laws in Sydney. As someone in their 30s, who is beyond the 'partying' years and who is also a non-drinker, I found these laws to be draconian and a bandaid solution. The negative impact these laws have had on small businesses and the economy has been well discussed. I would like to outline how these laws have impacted me. The concept of nightlife is nothing new. It has existed for centuries and thrived for centuries. There is also nothing sinister about nightlife or anti-social about going out past 1am. This is what I have noticed- at around 1am all my friends start ordering lots of drinks and drinking them as quickly as possible to make it to the next venue before 1:30am. Rather than pacing themselves with their alcohol intake, it becomes exponential just before we leave a venue. This leads to them being more drunk and causing more problems on the streets. I have also noticed that because venues are not allowed to admit patrons after 1:30am, there has been a significant increase of very drunk people wandering the streets because they cannot get in anywhere. I have seen this down Oxford Street, in Darlinghurst- drunk people hanging around with nowhere to go.

I have been going out in Kings Cross for many years and myself nor my friends have ever been involved in alcohol fuelled violence. I have probably witnessed 2 fights over the years. With these current laws, the innocent are being punished rather than the offenders. We cannot go out and enjoy Sydney in its fullest. As a mature adult, I cannot buy a bottle of wine at 10:05pm. For my friends who are shift workers, we cannot go out at 11pm to sit and eat at a restaurant. The lock out laws and being kept safe are not mutually exclusive. We are the ones who are going out and enjoying social life and we are the ones who want to be kept safe. We want safe streets and safe venues.

The music industry is also being damaged. The many DJs that I used to enjoy watching no longer have venues to play at. Rather than promoting talented artists, they are now fighting for timeslots and looking at relocating to Melbourne to get a start. When an Australian musician is successful globally, we love to ride on their coat tails and claim them as Australian. Yet the platform for that success is being demolished.

I love Sydney and the lockout laws are not going to change the root of alcohol fuelled violence. There will always be a minority who are anti-social and disruptive. So let's look at solutions which keep the 99% of responsible adults who enjoy nightlife safe. 24 hour public transport. Increase in available taxis. Bans on the people who cause the violence- not bans on the rest of us.

Carly Hawkins

Carly Hawkins - EDEN College School Manager
Youth Off The Streets Limited



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