

annual liquor license fee program

LL Lazybones Lounge [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Sun 3/04

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Hi,

I would like to address the *annual liquor license fee program* as our business is in the inner west & has a 3am license Thurs-Sats.

This fee is extraordinary and it is punishing hard working, small business owners such as my partner & I.

We are a sophisticated Restaurant & Bar and we play live music 7 nights/week. We have been trading under three years & we have a 3am license from Thurs-Sat nights.

We employ ~10 staff and have been told by both Local Police & Marrickville Council that we are good for the area. There is a knock on effect with local business: restaurants are busier, almost all of our goods & services are purchased locally and we pay 50+ musicians weekly.

We practise RSA actively and there have been studies which show live music reduces anti social behaviour associated with alcohol. We do not have gaming and ironically, for us to pay this fee, we will have to sell more alcohol.

We are a responsible venue and we need to have our late license so that we can attract people to Marrickville. If we closed at midnight or changed our license, our income would drop dramatically and therefore we would struggle to pay our bills and keep the doors open. We would lose an awful lot of money & our staff would lose their jobs. Sydney would be worse off without a sophisticated venue to go to.

My partner & I have been working every day & night on this lounge restaurant/ bar for almost 3 years so that we can pay bills & keep the doors open. We find it extremely hard paying bills as it is, in fact we pay all bills over \$1000 off over several weeks. It seems grossly unfair that we have been in business for less than three years & this new fee is introduced when we are doing the right thing by our patrons & at the same time making Marrickville a more vibrant place.

We are not benefitting financially from this business & to pay this fee, we will have to sell more alcohol, a lot more alcohol. It is unfair to small businesses such as ours who act responsibly. This fee will destroy business owners, what about our well being? Our mental health? It is simply not fair.

If businesses such as ours close down which will inevitably happen, people will drink & take drugs at home more than at present, this will cause noise complaints, increase the likelihood of over indulging/overdosing & increase domestic violence.

Please eliminate this unfair fee.

Many thanks,
Alexandra Heffernan
Owner/Director/Licensee

Lazybones Lounge

[Redacted]

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