

# Liquor Law Review.

AH Ayrton Hogan [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Mon 10:39 PM

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Dear Mr Callinan

Submission on liquor law review

Background: I am a Darlinghurst resident since 2013, living about 500m from the Coca Cola sign at Kings Cross. I am a male in my mid/late 20s and my wife has also submitted her opinions. Mine are below.

2.9/3.8 Periodic liquor licence fee scheme - SUPPORT, but this should be extended. Penalties for non-compliant venues or venues with violent incident histories should have high fines imposed and stricter conditions placed on their operation. I note the costs of running OLGR and ILGA are \$50m and the revenue raised \$18m - fees and penalties on bigger, high-risk venues should be increased to cover the costs. At the moment, are taxpayers footing the bill for the extra \$32million it costs to run OLGR and ILGA?

2.11 Annual risk based loading - SUPPORT. Despite the timing (around 9pm) of the deaths of the two teenagers that spurred the lockout laws, I agree the potential for anti-social alcohol fuelled behaviour and violence at licensed venues or around venues is more likely to occur after midnight, after people have been drinking across the evening. Strongly support late trading venues, particularly large clubs, being charged substantial loading fees. I do not support this idea for smaller venues which promote socialising with a greater focus on quality not quantity. It should be based around the size of the venue and type of licence held.

2.11.3 SUPPORT additional loading fees for non-compliant venues.

3.6 SUPPORT review to examine displacement of anti-social behaviour to other areas. Considerable anecdotal evidence coming from Newtown and Pyrmont about impact on residents' lives.

3.6.1b - Safety and general amenity - it is essential the NSW Government introduce 24 hour transport, starting with trains. It is laughable to see posters at Kings Cross station advertising the last train at 1:40am. People who take transport into the city from outer suburbs are just hanging around the streets once they are locked out of clubs after 1:30am, till trains start again at 5am or so. This should be the first action the government takes following the review. Invest in it and in the longer term it will pay off, plus it will help restore our image as a global city, which has been severely damaged by the lockout laws. Can't stress how ridiculous this seems.

3.7 10pm take away liquor sales restriction - not support for 10am cease take away alcohol sales, but support for examining impacts of this restriction. Bigger issue particularly for young people is pre-loading at friends' houses or on public transport, before coming into night time precincts. Consider raising prices of alcopops, which are aimed at younger drinkers, and are largely used to get drunk, not for the enjoyment of the beverage. Taxing these particular drinks at a higher rate could raise money for the government (maybe to go towards the operational costs of OLGR/ILGA), but not impact on quality beverage producers/Australia's wine and beer industry. Stand up to these types of producers (who will inevitably claim they are being unfairly targeted) - they make poor quality, sugary drinks only intended to help people get drunk.

Closing remarks: While many of my friends oppose the 1.30am lockouts and 3am cease alcohol (more so the lockouts), I am not affected by this as I don't go out at that time. I have not noticed any change in the vibrancy of the places I go (from 6pm to 12am/1am). Small bars are a really positive addition to the night time mix and we need more initiatives like them.

Overall while these regulations have reduced anti-social behaviour - as they aimed to (but also they've just taken people out of night time areas altogether) - they haven't solved the root causes, which are the violence inside those two men who perpetrated the one-punch deaths, and the same violent potential in others in society. We need to work on communicating to young men particularly, but all in society, that violence isn't an acceptable way to treat anyone or resolve a conflict. Some of the awareness around domestic violence that's becoming a government priority will hopefully help this. However, there will always be violent people out there so we won't be able to eliminate this behaviour completely.

We also need to do a lot of work to change our culture - people consider having a "good night" out is a night you were so drunk you can't remember what happened. We need to change the culture around socialising, to deliver messages that it's okay to have a few drinks and just be tipsy rather than 6 or 8 and be unable to control your behaviour or words. The government could consider creative campaigns around this.

Love the above conclusion and concur with the points my wife has made. In addition, severe hypocrisy in stating this is a moral dilemma and allowing gambling venues to stay open past restrictions is mind boggling. Particularly with evidence linking alcohol abuse and problem gambling. It makes the state huge quantities of money. I know. But it is a massive problem to at least an equal degree as alcoholism in Australia, with Australians engaging in gambling more than any other nation on earth and with the social cost of gambling totalling in the billions per year.

Furthermore, a government that propagates Neo Liberal policies that extend the gap between the wealthiest and poorest in this state (and across the nation) is taking away the last vestige of self determination - individuals vying to invest in experience as most else has been put out of their reach. A government whose party promotes the rights of the individual to self determination - and let's not forget the idea of a free market which is essentially being decimated in this sector. And through this decimation conveniently lines the pockets of a few very wealthy individuals.

There has to be a more sensible and balanced approach.

Thanks for your time.

Ayrton.