



# Stop the lockouts

 Reply all |   Delete Junk |  ...   Reply all | 

To: Liquor Law Review; Cc: Carla Hoorweg  

8:01 AM

Inbox

Dear Inquiry members

I have lived in Sydney since the year 2000 and I am a female in my late 30's.

Having travelled around the globe a few times now I can say it pales compared to New York, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and ... well pretty much everywhere else I've been, in terms of availability of things to see and do, at any hour.

So many of our talented artists and musicians move to Melbourne, or overseas because there is too little focus on encouraging cultural diversity in entertainment. It's all football, beer barns and pokies.

The small bar changes were working and there was hope, with new venues opening and music and cultural hubs developing in new areas, like Marrickville.

Now that the lockouts have been in place for a while we are starting to see the effects of this badly thought out, reactionary policy.

The real problem is that there is a cultural issue with violence in Sydney and Australia. Young men (and some young women) feel an overwhelming desire to act out violently. They seem to think this is ok or appropriate.

This is clearly reflected in the domestic violence statistics.

The problem is not about alcohol or access to alcohol. It is about a culture of angry young men with low self esteem, low IQ and low empathy in a city with rising costs and an entitlement mentality. That is the true dark side of Sydney.

As time goes by it will become increasingly evident that the problems faced in the Cross will re-emerge in Newtown, Bondi and other current low-risk areas such as Marrickville. Whilst the stats do not show it yet, they will - and what then?

The solution is cultural change and for Australians (and Sydneysiders) to develop a sensible and mature relationship with each other when partying. One that does not involve violence and idiocy.

The current lockout laws are clearly having unintended consequences :

- business closures
- detrimental impact on the music and cultural scene
- damage to Sydney's reputation as a global destination
- loss of jobs

These consequences need to be addressed.

Fix the actual problem, don't create a new one.

Please recommend that the NSW Government stop treating the majority of the population as if we're hot headed pre-pubescent thugs who can't be trusted on an allnighter - because we are not.

Please recommend that sensible, mature solutions be explored so that the rest of us can enjoy what Sydney has to offer.

Sydney can be a truly international city with a rich tapestry of entertainment and culture, if the right policy settings are implemented.

Yours sincerely

Carla Hoorweg

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]