



**AUSTRALIAN  
SEX PARTY**

3 April 201

## **INDEPENDENT LIQUOR LAW REVIEW: NSW LOCKOUT LAWS**

The Australian Sex Party NSW is a libertarian political party concerned with continuing infringements upon our civil liberties by government. Our policies are guided by the principles: socially progressive, economically prudent and environmentally rational.

The Australian Sex Party NSW (ASXP NSW) is firmly opposed to Sydney's Lockout Laws as they pertain to the King's Cross and CBD Entertainment Precincts. These laws have resulted in a measurable and significant reduction in night trade for local businesses, including bars, pubs, clubs, adult entertainment and adult retail. In some instances, the downturn has caused businesses to cease trading, resulting in loss of jobs or considerable reductions in staff numbers. Many of these businesses have traded in the district for many decades – these laws demonstrate that the government is more concerned with new property owners buying into the area, rather than considering the impact upon small business owners and upholding agent of change principles.

Claims of reduction of street-violence is grossly exaggerated, as these laws simply displace anti-social activity to inner city suburbs – anecdotally some of our members living in the inner west have witnessed the transformation of their once safe streets into unpredictable hot spots of the exact same behaviour that they government have claimed to have stamped out.

Exemptions granted to Star City Casino, one of the most violent precincts in Sydney, sends a clear message that the NSW government are not serious about addressing violence or the underlying issues that cause people to binge drink. The lockout laws represent the worst kind of nanny-state paternal policy that punishes all for the actions of very few. Furthermore, the rationale behind these laws is counter to the research that shows alcohol does not cause violence but rather that violent people perpetrate violence.

In 2010 the Victorian branch of the Australian Sex Party lobbied against Melbourne's lock-out laws along similar lines to those outlined in this submission and Fiona Patten campaigned on 24-hour public transport as a viable solution to ensuring that people are not stuck in the CBD or on the streets after a night out. In 2012, the Greens agreed with this approach and in 2014, Labor adopted this policy as an election promise. Now implemented, improvements to public transport in Melbourne – namely 24 public transport on the weekends – ensures that people who want to get home can do safely.

Lockout laws were rendered ineffective in Melbourne years ago, highlighting that the NSW government is out of touch and on the wrong side of history. ASXP NSW calls for the immediate removal of Sydney's draconian lockout laws and for the introduction of 24 hour public transport on weekends.

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