

Liquor Law Review

Ellen Kirkwood [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review <liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au>;

Hello,

I am writing to give you my opinion of the Lockout Laws. I understand that excessive drinking can, and has, caused grievous violence. This is definitely a problem in our culture. Drinking to excess and boasting about it is an unfortunate part of our culture, and I definitely agree that it needs to change.

To me, the Lockout Laws are a tiny bandaid on a broken limb. They have just driven the drinking problem elsewhere, sometimes to places even more dangerous, like domestic situations where alcoholics can become abusive to their partners and families. At least when those people were at a pub with security and police around, these people could be stopped before causing damage.

People are going to go out and socialise one way or another, and alcohol is almost always going to be part of it. I think we need to promote more places and activities where drinking can be part of the experience, but not the focus. Places like music venues, theatre venues, outdoor entertainment, art exhibitions and the like are places which will promote culture and socialising without the focus on drinking.

Instead of locking people out of the Sydney CBD which has now become dead and lifeless at night, promote a healthy vibrant culture of things for people to do and see together, by relaxing the laws on places that do not have alcohol as theirs in focus.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Ellen Kirkwood