

Emilie Lemasson

2 April 2016

Hon. Ian Callinan AC
Level 11
Barristers Chambers Limited
107 North Quay, Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Sir,

I am writing to submit an idea for the independent review of the impact of the liquor reforms which I submitted to the Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore's office. She suggested I outline my idea for the upcoming discussion on these reforms.

I have recently moved back to Sydney after a year living in the Northern Rivers, and was deeply saddened by the absence of a pulse when I ventured out in to the city recently. My beautiful hometown was dull and lifeless due to the lock-out laws.

You can hear from most of my demographic and beyond at the moment (I am a 37 year old mother and psychology student who likes to get out and kick up her heels occasionally), not to mention the business owners who have lost their livelihood, a collective groan and a few selective words for the very few who spoil it for the rest. But what if the few didn't have to spoil it for the rest? What if we could breathe life back in to our vibrant, diverse and largely peaceful night life culture in Sydney?

I had the idea that an application on a smart device could be purchased for a nominal fee which, much like the application process for a working with children check or renewing a drivers licence could check the applicants criminal record for any charges of violence or alcohol related infringements. Anyone who had a prior record in say, the last three years, would be unable to enter a place (implemented Sydney-wide, or simply in the lock-out zone) that serves alcohol after 12am, as monitored by security on the doors of such premises, much like the electronic system that checks proof of age now. No app, no entry.

The added benefits of this system would be numerous.

- Obviously, you are taking people who have a history of alcohol-related infringements and violence out of the equation.
- Tourists would be able to purchase the app and feed more money in to our economy.

- Businesses that suffered financially under the lock-out laws would be fully functioning again.
- Not being able to use the application because of prior misdemeanours would be a deterrent to anyone wishing to socialise in the area where the application would be required for entry. The demographic who seem to be affected most by alcohol related violence also appear to be the ones who would suffer the most by being unable to join their friends in these areas for a night out. Essentially, they would be losing years that otherwise could be enjoyable memories with their peers.
- The purchase cost of the application should reflect the cost of it being self-sustainable. I would also suggest that a percentage of incoming funds should be set aside for organisations such as the Thomas Kelly Youth Foundation on the Safe Space and the Take Kare Ambassador Program.
- The application could also be used for people wishing to enjoy the Sydney Harbour Foreshore for events like New Years Eve, when bars could be set up for such occasions. Again, no app, no alcohol.
- Sydney would be a vibrant, exciting place to visit of an evening once again for locals and tourists alike.
- Most importantly, parents of young people entering drinking age could have more peace of mind that their loved ones will be safe whilst enjoying a night out.

I would like to add that I think the legal drinking age should be increased to at least nineteen. I have been a private tutor in Sydney schools for almost twenty years and children in year twelve are still children, still in the mindset of being a student and largely cared for by parents and teachers. They need at least a year to understand the responsibility of work or study to settle in to the idea of what it is to be an adult, and make informed decisions for themselves.

I wish you success with your review of these reforms, and thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Sincerely yours,

Emilie Lemasson