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# The lockout laws in Sydney

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To: Liquor Law Review; ▾

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Inbox

To whom it may concern,

As a member of the public who has recently moved back from Canberra to Sydney, I want to express my opinion on the lockout laws. They are wet blankets that take away the soul of Sydney night-life and fail to address alcohol fuelled violence.

Before the lockout laws, an average night out would begin with a dinner at home before going to a friends for pre-drinks and socialising and then when everyone was starting to feel like dancing and a few fancy drinks we would head out to the city. This would usually be about 11:30-12am. Once out, we would check out a few of our favourite bars and it could take a few hours before we decided where we wanted to stay dancing and drinking. Having lockout laws compresses this whole process. People are forced to go out earlier to avoid queues, this means they have pre drinks earlier or drink much harder over a shorter time period to get to that same state of social comfort and enthusiasm. With the lockout laws, drinking often occurs on an empty stomach because there isn't time to go home and make dinner after work or Uni. When they finally get out they are pressured by deadlines to drink quickly in order to get around to favourite venues before lockout.

As an alternative a lot of young people are turning to drugs so that they can save money by not spending as much out, seeing as they have to go to the clubs earlier when they are not ready and therefore have to spend more money on drinks at clubs.

Another big downside to the laws is the way that they stop people who work in hospitality to go out and party with their friends when they finish work. Having worked in hospitality for years in Canberra I love the freedom of being able to go out for drinks after work. Some people due to Uni schedules or daytime commitments are forced to work late nights in order to make ends meet. Why should they have to miss out on weekend fun?

If you want to stop alcohol related violence, you don't do it by killing the soul of Sydney's late night lifestyle. You do it by: 1 investing in education, violence as a problem needs to be addressed from the roots - if we are educating the masses properly then there will be fewer imbeciles who would start the aforementioned violence; 2 have more stringent penalties for serving intoxicated people alcohol so that bars and venues are more vigilant and take greater responsibility for their patrons (no point in punishing everyone because of the mistakes of a few); and 3 make sure that venues effectively deal with aggressive patrons by removing them from the venue and alerting authorities/calling them cabs and sending them home. Saying that there is less alcohol fuelled violence in the cross with lockout laws is a flawed argument. There are less people going to the cross now for nights out, so of course there are going to be fewer cases of reported violence.

These laws need to be dumped. They don't stop crime, they diminish tourism, the local economy, and impinge on the lifestyles of young people. Melbourne acknowledged the futility of the laws during their trial and as a result, the nightlife still flourishes. Please don't let the city of Sydney continue to be an over-regulated, stagnant shell of its prior glory. The city once had a wonderful freedom to it, help reinstate it by

dumping the lockout laws.

With great thanks,

Aero Leplastrier