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# Sydney Lockout Laws

GL G Lionatos  >Reply all | To: Liquor Law Review; 

Fri 1/04

Inbox

To whom this may concern,

I write to you as a resident of Sydney,, an Australia by birthright, and a Global citizen. I am 33 years old, and while some might say my "partying days" are well over, I am now at the age where I place a heavy importance on enjoying my life at the highest standard of my choosing - and will not accept living in a city that tries to dictate what I can and cannot do on any given night of the week.

I wish to express my extreme dissatisfaction and embarrassment at the current state of affairs in NSW. The current lockout laws imposed upon the adults of Sydney is nothing short of a dictatorship with very little merit to justify such an environment.

To be told that I cannot enjoy my glass of Merlot in an intimate wine bar past midnight, to be told that I cannot enjoy the company of good friends past 2am (unless I wish to invite them all back to my place) and to be told that my nights of dancing to local music acts until the sun comes up are over - well, this is not a decision that I would like the NSW government or any local council to make for me.

I was fortunate enough to experience Sydney nightlife from the year 2000 onwards. And what a great city it was. It was thriving, with an amazing club scene, live music scene, there were so many venues open that there was no need for long lines, loitering and violence on the streets. We were simply all too busy having fun!

Now, I read stories of business owners going broke and iconic landmarks closing because of the lockout laws. The questions I ask is how can the government think that alcohol is responsible for all of this? This feels like a gross assumption that has benefited the NSW government and Casinos of Sydney. Alcohol has been a part of all cultures around the world for centuries, yet somehow only raised as a problem in the last year in Sydney?

I would implore the government and governing bodies to look past this band-aid "solution" and work towards making Sydney the world-class city it was just in time for the 2000 Olympics. Perhaps other factors like social media, depression, drugs, domestic violence are factors that are affecting this minority of society who are causing the very little violence on the streets (or casinos) of Sydney.

Also, why are the casino's exempt? Star City has the highest levels of violence - why aren't they included in these lockout zones?

Sydney used to be a city that the world envied. Now, visitors are coming to our country and bypassing us for Melbourne. Some people are just not visiting at all.

As a citizen of Sydney, Australia and the World, my wish is to be as proud of living in Sydney as my counterparts in Melbourne and Europe are of their home towns.

I believe that this is the time to start looking at targeted solutions to a very small problem and stop hiding behind "alcohol-fueled violence" as a justification for the heavy handed controls that are currently being imposed on a group of people who could quite simply be classified as "INDEPENDENT ADULTS".

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Gina