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# Liquor Law review submissions

AL Andrew Lowe 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Sun 3/04

Inbox



Action Items



Dear HonIan Callinan,

I hope this is one of many emails you receive on the subject as NSW's sense of hope and democracy is dwindling and dissipating every day.

The current "pro lockout" statement that seems to be all too common, especially with premier Mike Baird. Is that alcohol related violence in the CBD and Kings Cross sectors is down by 24% (now that number seems to be 42.2% based on his latest Facebook post).

What does 24, or even 42.2% (false) less violence mean in these sectors if there is 80% less foot traffic in KX and 60% on Oxford St? Shouldn't the number, if it were really working, be a little higher?

What is the end game? When there is literally empty streets from 8pm until 9am, more than 60% of late night venues, food vendors and convenience stores shut down, and we say "well there's no more violence!". Is that considered a win?

What does that number really mean when since 2010 the rate of violence was dropping anyway just as a natural progression of our culture and the natural progression of the current generation of club goers? What does that number mean (24%) if in the surrounding areas of the innerwest its dropped by 39%?

Doesn't that show a slowing down of what would have been due process?

Another number. We are just reaching near 100 fatalities of "coward punch" incidents since 2000. Don't get me wrong this is tragic.

But what does that number mean amongst thousands and thousands of people in these areas every week. But ESPECIALLY, what does this number really mean when there are 34 incidents a day, in NSW alone, of domestic abuse (and those are just the ones reported). 28, 780 a year for NSW.

In response to to Mike Baird's comments: I can't really speak for women but at the end of the day, when there are no witnesses when there is no crowd to defend the helpless - how will

anyone feel safe in KX.

So have we eradicated the violent culture in NSW? No. We've eradicated a social hub, hundreds of small businesses:

Fast food owners, DJs, bands, promoters, club owners, bar tenders, taxi drivers, uber drivers, waiters, etc.

Multiple communities: The LGBT community had a hub on Oxford St, transplanting to Newtown, now to only be hassled and pushed around by other violent types pushed into inner-west areas due to lockouts. All this In an attempt to get all the DAs approved for more condos or what have you.

There's no such thing as "alcohol fuelled violence", the people who would commit these acts would have been violent regardless. This goes to show based on our domestic abuse statistics. There is a subculture of alpha males and misogynists in this country, a culture where individual consequences doesn't exist. Where a few males on a cocktail of steroids and booze, with superiority complexes cause a nationwide knee jerk regulation, that is the issue, not buying a bottle of wine at 10:01.

In stats released by St Vincents, assaults are down by 26% during 1:30 - 3pm however up by 28% from 9-11pm, which is when the initial Daniel Christie incident occurred. So whats the reasoning? Whats the thought behind pushing all these people out onto the street where bouncers can't look after them, when there are no trains running? The thought is we can probably still fine the venue for not escorting everyone to a cab I guess. These incidents all happened between 9 and 11. So what is the motive behind 1:30 onwards?

The transparency for revenue grabs by this party could not be more blatant, with every pro-lockout law spokesperson ultimately telling people "well you can still go to the casino" and not to mention the only exemptions to the regulations in KX are venues that have ample pokey machines to fuel problem gamblers. Problem gambling doesn't really hurt anyone does it?

Only a few years ago hospital admins in St Vincents and other government specialists released a statistic: 1 in 5 adult suicides are due to problem gambling. Is this a less violent culture? Potentially raising adult suicide statistics by sending people straight to the pokies or the casinos?

I ask you. Is it really worth it? Are you looking at the real numbers? Think about this before a whole state suffers for the mishaps of the few and the real issue has never been brought up. Fund white ribbon. Educate against violent behaviour. Stricter penalties on assaults. Believe in a safe & "vibrant" Sydney, It can happen! Statistically it was already happening!

Eradicate a violent culture, not nightlife.

Below are a few solutions to replace lockout laws, in addition to my last email, instead of needlessly shutting down the city, it's nighttime economy and it's culture.

- More CCTV across Sydney city
- Stronger lighting in busy areas

- A structured communication line between venues and police.
- Encouraging police to work with not against punters/ venues. We're not on opposing sides. We all want a safer Sydney.
- Stricter guidelines for alcohol advertising through mainstream media (TV, Outdoor)
- State run education programs on short, mid and long term effects of alcohols and drugs.
- State run education on public education programs on individual responsibility when it comes to assaults and violent behaviour.
- Increased number of Salvation Army recovery stations for intoxicated patrons
- Public toilets
- Introduce education programs that teach young males how to express themselves with words not violent actions and break down this hyper-masculine idea of what it means to be male in this society.
- Re-instate the \$200 daily limit to problem gambling Smart Cards (which Mike Baird changed to \$5000 a day in July 2015). Like I previously said 1 in 5 suicide cases are problem gamblers, this is a great concern.
- 24 hour trains. Biggest issue is people aimlessly wondering the streets for hours waiting for their transport to get home. And Buses, I'm afraid, have a bit of a stigma for being cesspools at that hour.
- A drinking points system. Much like a driving license, everyone has a clean slate then they are docked demerit points when they are involved in trouble making and eventually (if they continue) banned from alcohol consumption for a certain amount of time.

We all want a Safer Sydney, a lively Sydney. We all want what's best and all of us would prefer those who were acting out to be prosecuted as much as you do. Just not everyone else as well.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Lowe