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Submission for the review.

KM

Ken Macleod 

To: Liquor Law Review; 



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Sun 3/04

Inbox

To whom in may concern.

I earned a living as a DJ and worked in record shops on Oxford street in Sydney during the 1990's and early 2000's. I still do a little bit of DJ'ing - but its really just a hobby now as I have a professional career in data science and a family. I'm 43 years old and I have been out in Sydney thousands of times and have never had fight or major incident.

I'm writing this because I object strongly to the lock out laws. I object to the heavy handed state control of individual behaviour - its' destroying art and culture in this city.

There is a large group of people that enjoy socialising at night and dancing and love music. It's a passion for many people I know and I've met all my good friends in Sydney's clubs and bars. These are normal hard working well behaved Sydneysiders, good people that have the same values as everyone else, they want a healthy life, their kids to do well and for everyone to be happy and they do not want trouble in their lives.

But there are places in the city and in Kings Cross that traditionally I would never go to. Places that are rough and not about music and dancing, but about getting very drunk. Places like Jackson's on George and Scruffy Murphy's are venues that have an enormous amount of violence associated with them. If the government was really serious about reducing violence these types of venues would have been closed years ago. And they would have included the casino in the lock outs. The fact that they didn't was very telling and extremely cynical.

I would also like to point out that nighttime culture has always been a place for people that maybe don't fit neatly into society. I'm not talking about misfits but about artists and eccentric types. Nighttime culture has been the space that those people can congregate and enjoy niche activities. There is nothing wrong with this, there is nothing wrong with not being "mainstream" or being a little bit different.

When I look at governments at state and federal levels - they don't seem to have any good ideas about how to stop violence, they overreach with their policies and laws, which inevitably screw things up by targeting totally innocent people for no good reason. Lock out laws may or may not make the place safer, but it sure as hell won't be much help in addressing the social problems of violence and drinking. Which is why they are in place.

There is also a worrying trend from so called public health experts - which seem to see young people as a social problem unless they are regulated and overprotected. This is an absolutely ridiculous

situation and it is all politics and ideology, they have no business or legitimacy dictating social policy.

What we should be striving for is a city with lower levels of violence AND a vibrant nighttime culture and economy. These goals are not mutually exclusive.

Kind regards,

Ken.