

Personal Expression to the Review

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To: Liquor Law Review <liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au>;

I would like to express my disappointment in the City of Sydney laws around lock-outs and beverage service.

I feel like my right and freedom as a law-abiding citizen to be social after dark has been taken away. While I can understand the need to curb alcohol fuelled violence that was and still is seen around Sydney (by minimal people compared to those who are out & about), punishing the entire city, both residents and visitors is crazy.

My husband & I are frequent travellers around the world, and will often have visitors from overseas staying with us. The embarrassment we feel is immense having to tell them they cant order the drinks they like (neat scotch) after midnight as its considered a shot or in a glass they like, or that we cannot change venues after 1.30. We often get questioned why the casino is allowed this – and off we go only to be confronted with the most absurd crowd. We cant even be at a BYO restaurant and run across to grab a bottle of wine after 10pm.

I often work late (being in the service industry) and find myself with no option for a late night drink after work with colleagues – as we aren't permitted access. We spend our nights serving others, yet are refused this service when we finish work. We are punished for being there for others.

I have a huge circle of friends who are DJs and spent the 90's and 00's playing in the amazing venues of Kings Cross & Darlinghurst. Many of who's incomes have been curbed as they neither can change venues to play after 1.30am – not that it matters so much any more as so many of these Sydney institutions have closed, being unsustainable against these laws.

I think the laws for public violence aren't harsh enough, whether alcohol fuelled or not. Perhaps this should have been considered before taking away the freedom of so many!

These laws have destroyed Sydney's once vibrant nightlife. They have cut jobs, put businesses out of business and made Sydney a laughing stock.

Sydney will never recover from this. This review is too little, too late. All because of a few people – those that caused havoc and broke the law, and then those that made & passed the law!

Melinda Mangelsdorf