

Lost Business Lost Hope

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

To Whom it may concern

I was 24 years old when I first opened my mature life's dream of Owning a Bar. It was under a "small bar license" with a capacity of 50 people and open till 12pm. Situated on Stanley Street in Darlinghurst, I chose the location because it was an upcoming street that relied on people going out for dinner and then having a few drinks before heading up to the late night precinct. Within three quarters of my first year Barry O Farrell just announced that the lock out laws were in place with out time for me to unjust my business or without warning of how long it might last for (so i was stuck in the dark without being able to redirect my business) It was a struggle from that point on.

Not only was it hard to get customers in the door as everyone just chose to go to Newtown where they could go out from the start of the night till when ever they chose but my staff left as well, two to London and another to Newtown. Its incredibly hard to motivate your staff when they feel that around every corner the government is out to get them, Is he approaching intoxication? could I lose my job/get fined if I serve him a beer? Is he an undercover OLGR officer testing me so my boss gets a fine? not to mention after finishing a hard nights work we weren't allowed to go for a beer and unwind like the rest of the city that we had just finished serving. we were harassed at every point by council doing random inspections telling my i could get a fine because a speaker was 30 degrees too far towards the front door or the incident register wasn't filled out every day to explain that all my cameras were working.

I used to live in Pymont in the wharf apartments before i had had to move out as I was basically bankrupt at the age of 27. It would almost break my heart driving past the casino and seeing flocks of people head to the casino for a night out because it was the closest place open at 1:30 that wasn't the Pymont bridge hotel, I would witness countless assaults and witness all sorts of people that were aggressive not because they were drunk but because at every turn of there night they had been told "you have to move over a meter to smoke" or "you have 4 minutes to get to the place where all your friends are otherwise your night is over(even though they just paid \$60 dollars in a taxi to get to the eastern suburbs only to be told they aren't allowed in to the pub).

I agree Australia has a violence problem and that Alcohol accelerates it but I believe Venues that are safe and that are culturally orientated should be allowed to trade. Our city is being bleed dry of late night music, art culture that is the life of our youth. I don't want my kids to not know what it feels like to be in a room where a band or Dj was making a room of people have so

much fun

that they decided to play an extended set because it was obviously going to be a night to remember. Do you think the Stones

could have ever come out of a city like Sydney under lock out?

Please support safe venues because we are/were the only ones leading the charge in shifting an alcohol culture from binge and violence to

moderation and experience. make the casino fair and look after the little guys. I know you are reasonable people so please listen to the

reasonable arguments people are putting forward.

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