

Sydney Lockout Law Review

Fraser Mckertich [REDACTED]

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

To Whom It May Concern;

I am a musician and have been a part of Sydney's nightlife since I turned 18. I enjoy going out to gigs on any night of the week and have been enjoying this up until recent years.

As you are most likely aware, I am struggling to understand the benefits of blanketing an entire precinct with draconian laws prohibiting entry for patrons past 1.30am

I am aware that these people can go out until such time, and enjoy a night out. I don't actually think that the restrictions are THAT bad. The problem is, people are no longer willing to actually make the effort to go out, knowing that there will be restrictions on where they can enter later on in the night. It makes people feel as though they are restricted by their actions and I believe this has flow on effects to other areas of their activity, including violent behaviours.

I think people also feel LESS safe, knowing there are many less people out on the streets late at night, making Sydney more ghostly and not very cultural. In European cities and towns, you find people enjoying themselves late at night, even with their families. This type of approach makes people feel much safer and would encourage more people to go out at night, whilst maintaining a safe environment.

The NSW state government needs to do something to encourage this type of family culture at all times during the night. This can be done by:

- increasing police presence
- increasing sentences for offending patrons
- re-educating people through the use of publicly funded festivals and late night events
- increasing and encouraging publicly funded street performances
- creating more events and festivals like Vivid Sydney and Mardi Gras
- increasing reliability and frequency of public transport at night
- creating a rating system for venues based on the number of incidents that have occurred there
- encouraging businesses to undertake effective RSA and reward them for good track records

These are some ideas I hope can be more constructive than telling everyone to close at 3AM.

Regards

Fraser McKertich

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