

Sydney Lockout Laws - affect on commerce / Sugar - effect on people.

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Wed 30/03/2016 2:34 PM

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

Hello

I write in relation to the lockout laws in Sydney. I am a small business owner (employing 5 people), and I live in Darlinghurst. While my company is not directly affected by the lockout laws I would like to highlight my personal experiences.

I love Sydney, this is the reason I chose to headquarter my company here. However since the lockout laws were introduced I have seen a shift in the social behaviour and a flatness sweep across the central community. Once there was no pressure on choosing a venue - but rather you could leisurely go to different pubs and bars throughout the night and see friends and order a drink of your own choosing - in strength and volume.

I have visited many other countries which server far stronger drinks than the very small spirit-to-mixer ratio we have here, and other countries do not have the same troubles that Sydney seems to have.

I wonder why no one is drawing any links between the high sugar content of limiting a short and tall drink to such a small ratio of alcohol and a high content of soda in a drink. See: <http://harvardmagazine.com/2012/11/soda-and-violence>

The behaviour of hyped up thugs who are trying to get drunk of weak JD and Coke or Vodka Redbulls is quite obvious and unsatisfactory, and yet the community at large is being punished.

I don't feel I should be punished, or compromise my lifestyle. Sometimes I don't leave work till very late, and then I cannot buy a bottle of wine? and seeing on Facebook that a friend is at the bar across the road, and not being allowed to go see them? being a bit hungry and wanting to grab a quick bite to eat at Maccas but not being allowed back into a club? It's all ridiculous! And quite honestly it's the type of thing that would attract me to move my company back to Melbourne where I first started.

You should be creating a fun, safe, and open environment where people are trusted to be adults. Not served huge amounts of sugar with a droplet of alcohol, and locking people into venues. You're killing the social vibrancy of Sydney.

Please fix it before it's too late.

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Kind regards,

Jonathan Milne

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