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Have Your Say: Liquor Law Review

EM Emmanuel Monteiro 

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To: Liquor Law Review; 

3:47 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

Having been born and raised in Sydney, I am old enough to have witnessed the how the controversial 'lock-out laws' have devastated a once vibrant night culture. I remember on any given night safely hopping between a multitude of clubs and bars, seeing friends and music, enjoying what was then a world-class city that I was proud to call home. I remember a bustling kings cross, oxford & george streets, and CBD where I never once felt threatened, or unsafe when I was out to enjoy myself.

The atmosphere in these districts has changed since the introduction of the lock-out laws. Where there are patrons, the atmosphere is now one of fear, with the constant threat of punishment under this or that law, or the ejection from a bar by a paranoid and overworked bouncer. Most of the venues in which I spent the late nights of my early adulthood are now closed due to these short sighted and contentiously-motivated laws. I am ashamed when a friend comes to Sydney from overseas and I have to explain why we can't stay out past a certain time of night, or why we can't smoke here or stand there. I am ashamed to explain that if they want to enjoy night-time culture in Australia they're better off trying to find a good night out in Melbourne.

As a Highschool teacher I am an upstanding and positively contributing member of Australian society. I am not a violent hooligan, or idiot, that can't control himself after a few drinks. I do not need to be told when and where I can enjoy myself responsibly as an adult. The fact that I spend my days working hard, moulding the youths to become positive members of our society, and then at night I am told that I cannot be trusted with a scotch on the rocks past 12:00 am - enrages me. Apparently I can be trusted to educate children but not to enjoy a drink under my own supervision.

Please reconsider punishing the many for the mistakes of the very few, and consider the price of profiteering over the preservation of culture.

Regards,

Emmanuel Monteiro