

Submission re: lockout law review

MT Moore, Tristan [REDACTED]

  Reply all | 

To: Liquor Law Review; Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

3:01 PM

Inbox

To the Department of Justice,

I urge the immediate removal of the lockout laws and the implementation of smarter, fairer policies in the attempt to reduce alcohol fuelled violence. It is unjust to punish the majority of well-behaved patrons for the behaviour of a small minority of people. The 1:30am lockout laws and 3am "last drinks" rules have unfairly forced many venues to close, due to the fact that a significant portion of trade and patronage occurs after the times in which these restrictions come into effect.

Throughout university, I worked at Hugos Lounge in Kings Cross which has been forced to closed due a downturn in business as a result of the restrictions that have been placed upon it. Hugos had no prior history of violence and attracted a sophisticated clientele, yet was unfairly subjected to the same restrictions as venues deemed "high risk". Many of my colleagues and close friends have lost their jobs and have had great difficulty finding new jobs, or have found jobs which are unable to provide enough work to for them to rely on as their sole job. This is due to less demand for hospitality staff in the inner city as a result of forced venue closures.

In addition to loss of jobs, the lockout laws have strangled Sydney's inner city vibrancy and had a drastic effect on local business. Many bars which my friends used to frequent have now closed including: Hugos Lounge, Barrio Chino, Beach Haus, Goldfish. The lockout laws do not only effect the late night venues, they have a flow on effect to the small bars, the restaurants and even the local kebab shops in the surrounding areas. My friends and I now have limited options on where we can go and socialise, as the

 Reply all |   Delete Junk |  ...  re overcrowded and

I strongly agree that something needs to be done in order to combat alcohol fuelled violence, but I do not believe a "one-size-fits-all" approach is justified, I have provided alternative recommendations below which I hope you will consider.

Alternative recommendations

- ID scanners at all venues at all venues with capacities greater than 100 people within areas deemed to have higher instances of violence (e.g. Kings Cross). These scanners should be linked to a centralised system, whereby patrons who are violent or refused entry due to intoxication are earmarked to prevent them entering other premises within the area.
- Temporary bans on violent individuals i.e. if you are charged with assault, you are banned from entering specified entertainment districts for a period of time as determined from the magistrate (enforceable using ID scanners as detailed in point above).
- Increased CCTV and real-time monitoring to identify aggressive or intoxicated individuals before violence occurs.
- Stationing one police officer on each corner of the major streets (e.g. Bayswater Road and

Darlinghurst Road, Victoria Street and Darlinghurst Road, Bayswater Road and Ward Avenue, Roslyn Street and Darlinghurst Road) as opposed to large police beats roaming the streets. This would improve visibility and discourage violent behaviour as it is likely that individuals will be in sight of an officer at all times.

Please consider my recommendations, Sydney-siders should not be punished as a whole for the actions of a few. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions in relation to my submission.

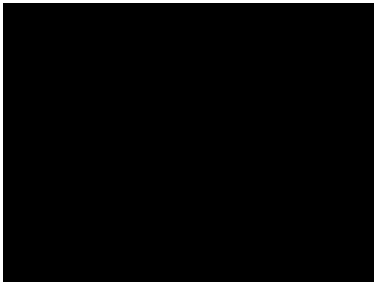
Kind regards,

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