

Submission

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

To Whom it may concern,

I am a psychologist and wrote the original paper against the lockout laws in Queensland based on the Gold Coast study. I understand the poor statistics and the number of variables which bias any longitudinal study so I am not convinced of the data presented in your paper and or mine. Also having multiple friends working at hospitals in Sydney- I feel your data has been misrepresented. Despite this - I am more inclined to tell my story and how I feel that these laws impact me and others around me.

Some background - I am 29 year, single, old home owner. My parents are religious and I grew up with these beliefs. I have traveled all over the world. I represent a typical responsible average adult who throws a dinner party and enjoys a glass of red with friends at my beautiful local bars in Double bay. I moved here two and half years ago from Queensland to peruse a high income earning job.

Compared to Europe where you can have a cocktail on the beach, tapas with a wine after work, with zero restrictions it is interesting to see that nobody gets drunk, there is minimal violence and these are some of the happiest cities in the world. I compare it to teens who have a small glass of wine with their family at dinner who remained controlled at parties to the ones who cNt have any and end up in hospital after skulking a bottle of Gin.

What is most upsetting - I have many international and interstate visitors and want to show off what I think is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. But hearing small bars being shut down and forgetting to run to a bottle o to toast a success on Friday with my parents is really embarrassing and most of my guests have walked away with a bad impression. I have found it a hard adjustment to move to Sydney having so many social and work pressures. I feel that money would be better spent trying to work on these, rather than restricting the crutch of alcohol that psychology for years has linked to stress. We have one of the highest levels of suicide in Sydney. People are drinking to forget their problems. Let's try together to make Sydney a city we collectively can be proud of as a safe and happy where people choose to make good life choices rather than mandating it.

I have plenty of data to back up my statements if required. But I really think it comes down to doing the right thing for everyone, hearing our stories and realising that people und 30 are not a menace to society but should be given a bit of freedom and responsibility. You should care for us all. Everyone over 18 has the right to vote. Don't marginalise youth because of a few outliers who make bad decisions. They will find a way to anyway. Find a way to understand all of us and be a leader we can be proud of and want to work with.

I have heard of so many people planning to leave and voting for different parties at every dinner I have attended in the last month. People of all ages. Work on getting good data and doing some market research - then we can work on a solution that fits all demographics. It's about the carrot not the stick with youth (albeit I saw a 70 year old dancing last night).

Hannah