

Sydney lock out review

Benjamin Murphy [REDACTED]

Wed 30/03/2016 2:28 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

My name is Benjamin Murphy, I am a music technology teacher and current practitioner (composer, producer and performer). I do not reside in Sydney but in Melbourne, however I have visited a few times in the last 12 months thanks to the touring schedule of my band. As someone whose whole life and income is wrapped up in the arts and entertainment industry, I am very concerned about the changes going on in Sydney. I understand the motivations, I understand the concerns, but I do not believe the current lock out laws are the right means to the end solution.

It is my job to train the students who will become the arts practitioners and entertainers of tomorrow. I am forever frustrated when I see the lack of accessibility some have to these opportunities. I often struggle to see an appropriate gender balance or general diversity in the student population. So much of what drives people into my classrooms is based upon attitudes and opportunities happening outside of it. Whether students see role models above them, whether students see opportunities for careers and whether they are inspired. The late night entertainment economy is driven by the young, and it puts the spark in many to seek a career in the arts. I know the ugly side can hit the papers, but that's because the story of my future students who discovered their excitement for music and their engagement in creative self expression will never really be headline worthy. The opportunity to play shows, to organise events or to work the sound production. All of these things are vital tools for many people to have a successful career in a field where they can thrive and speaks to their interests. I appreciate that I do not fight for doctors or engineers or those who society often sees as valuable, but please try to understand that this is not so much a matter of choice. One does not have the aptitude for any given career and then decide, for some of us the arts is our only home. Indeed I wonder that without the arts, what is the rest of it all for?

Sydney is a cultural capital of the country. It's late night entertainment offers a vital piece to the city's identity. It provides work and opportunities for many but these current lock out laws, whilst well intentioned, are shredding this vital component of the city and country's character.

I want to keep touring to Sydney and playing for its audiences, I want to keep meeting new people working behind the scenes on the events I play, I want to keep teaching new students who are inspired by the culture they immerse themselves in and the future they see before them. Please consider your approach to tackling these issues, and I ask that you remove these lock out laws to try instead the alternatives. There are better spokespeople than me to propose them, I am just a fan of the music.

Thanks for your time.

--

Benjamin Murphy