

Submission: Lock Out Law Review

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

To the Hon. Ian Callinan AC,

As someone who has grown up in Sydney I am disappointed by what I see as the negative impact the Lock Out laws have had on our city, particularly on businesses, live music and the arts.

Do the laws address violent behaviour?

I understand that these laws were a response to perceived link between drinking and violence. However when the tragic death of Daniel Christie took place at 9pm in Kings Cross in 2014, Premier Barry O'Farrell acknowledged that lock out laws would be cold comfort to the Christie family as they would have "had no impact." (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-01-02/alcohol-crackdown-wouldnt-have-stopped-nye-attack/5182088>). The laws do not address psychological and behavioral problems that many of the aggressors in these incidents are dealing with. Nor do they prevent individuals pre-loading at home just as the assailant Shaun McNeil had done. Instead they punish the responsible majority.

Impact on the arts and therefore Sydney's economy

I am also dismayed as an arts and cultural worker to see that these laws have directly impacted upon the viability of live music and visual arts venues and consequently the livelihoods of artists who perform in these venues. Many of the most successful contemporary visual artists, musicians, writers and curators that work professionally in Sydney were fostered by its nightlife in Oxford Street and the Kings Cross. These individuals have gone onto develop internationally renowned festival such as Vivid and the Biennale of Sydney, which bolsters not only the cultural identity but economic and tourism value of our city.

Why is the Casino exempt?

I am troubled by the lack of transparency in these laws, particularly that the Star Casino appears to be exempt from any of the restrictions on drinking, smoking or lock out times. It is abundantly evident that a donation of \$4.7 billion gambling debts to the Government allows the Casino to operate on distinctly separate rules.

These laws are ageist

Lastly I feel as a 30 year old these laws don't represent me or my interests. In fact as Richard Cooke describes "For many of the young and those approaching middle age, it constitutes a final straw. The physical lockout is the final manifestation of a cultural lockout they have suffered for a long time. They have been locked out of the housing market, locked out of affordable education, locked out of the welfare system and secure employment. They have seen their political power and their real wealth shrivel. And now the one area where their expectations had not been curtailed – recreation – is being destroyed as well."

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.