

# Liquor Law Review submission

MN Michael Nolan [REDACTED]



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To: Liquor Law Review

I am a Sydney resident who is very disturbed by the negative impacts these laws are having on our city.

I believe these laws are based on assumptions and beliefs which are outdated, held up by statistics which are dubious, and driven by motivations which are morally questionable if not blatantly corrupt.

I am a 37 year old creative who has worked at high profile Australian fashion brands for the last 12 years. I am now considering moving overseas, because I feel like Sydney is becoming lifeless, over regulated and uninspiring. The liquor laws I believe have a lot to do with this.

The below text is from Keep Sydney Open which summarises my own thoughts on the matter perfectly.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely

Regards

Michael Nolan

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

As a Sydney resident and a peaceful participant of its once vibrant nightlife, I am grateful for the opportunity to make this submission. I am writing to you because I have personally experienced the impacts that the lockout laws have had on our city – I have seen businesses close, witnessed

the loss of jobs, lamented the lack of places to socialise with my friends and mourned the dwindling opportunities to listen to live, local music.

We all agree that safe streets are a priority, but there are better ways to achieve this. Evidence and common sense suggests that a better planned response could have a greater effect on reducing alcoholrelated violence *without* having the unintended consequences that the lockout laws have had.

## What happened?

Sydney's nighttime economy had an awkward start to life. It grew up and out too quickly and without being properly planned for. Before we knew it, tens of thousands of people were coming into a few precincts every Friday and Saturday night, and yet instead of being managed on the scale this required, Kings Cross was left to its own devices. The police were not willing or able to deal with the belligerent or violently inclined. The venues were packed and the streets were chaotic. When it all got too much or you decided it was time to go home, the busses and trains had stopped and the fight for a cab was a long one.

Then, tragically, two young men lost their lives. The city mourned and rightly decided things had to change. The government's response, however, chose to deflect the blame and rushed through blanket laws without consultation. The lockout laws have been a failure.

## What needs to change?

The lockout laws have caused irreparable damage to the economic, social and cultural fabric of Sydney. Instead of the 1:30am lockout and 3.00am cease of service, the **7 key actions** below should be implemented together to curb the violence and keep Sydney open for all to enjoy.

- 1 Developing bestpractice **policing** strategies;
- 2 Investing in 24/7 public **transport** ;
- 3 Implementing integrated urban **planning reform** ;
- 4 Encouraging diversification of **afterdark activities** ;
- 5 Establishing antiviolence **education & intervention** campaigns;
- 6 **Incentivising wellrun venues** ; and
- 7 Appointing a **Night Mayor** .