

Liquor Law Review.

Dean Norris.

I am writing to this inquiry on the basis that I to share in the vision of growing Night time economy (NTE) in Sydney. I agree with the LMNAR Report that Sydney is in a unique Position to have a NTE which is mixed and highly vibrant, attracting all age groups. However I will throughout this response show that I believe that this can be done without the need of a lock out laws to the city and liquor laws.

Firstly I will point out in the beginning of my review that as a 26 year old Male I may have pre disposed bias to these reviews as these have directly affected my socializing behavior. I make this point above as I do not believe bias of views has been clearly stated by parties when forming the now Liquor License. I must also disclose that in no ethical or moral sense do I believe that it is okay for Casino's be exempt for these laws over clubs in the precinct. If the rationale behind Casino's being exempt is due to increase security measures than at least allow current venues to meet the requirements u deem necessary for a 24 hour liquor license. It is disturbing when we have a government which acknowledges that gambling is a serious problem for many Australians but yet no policy seems to affect gambling organizations. It is also unfathomable that a Premier and Medical Doctor from St Vincent's on different airing occasions can make mention that the City is not dead kids can still go to the Casino.

It is in my belief the role of the government to not be affected by media but make policy decisions based on accurate collection and interpretation of data.

The rest of my response will be based on my interpretation of the data which was made available in LMNAR report.

Limitations:

Whilst the LMNAR report is detailed and unbiased many limitations the report make it hard to make true interpretations of the data to the relevant questions.

- 1) Time points of data collection are not matched for seasonal activity.
- 2) No weekly variation of Incidents or foot traffic is mentioned from matched time periods.
- 3) Data not interpreted as Odds/ Risk ratios.

These above limitations make it very hard to accurately assess the magnitude of affect but also failure to show the actual risk in terms that people can reference to.

The table below is data extracted from the LMNAR report.

	<u>2010 (5 Precincts)</u>	<u>2012 (10 precincts)</u>	<u>2015(12 precincts)</u>
ASB (Anti-Social Behavior)	3650	1327	703
Change		2323	624
Percent change		63%	47%

This table above shows that from 2010 we have seen an already drastic decrease in the number of ASB counts with a decrease from 27-21% in serious incidents. Whilst analysis of some precincts E.g Kings Cross would suggest an increase in Assaults these could just be due to natural year to year variability of an already low relative %.

If these results are matched to the total number of people who visit the city during this time period we would find that whilst significant total drop has been seen no relative change has been seen in relation to the number of people in the city.

An example of Risk of going to Kings Cross can be seen below.

Kings cross 2012 had 70.2 ASB incidents/1000 which when made into serious injuries becomes 21/1000 or 2.1/100 people.

Kings Cross 2015 had the highest number of incidents on a Saturday with (32.4)/1000 people or 3.24 incidents per 100ppl. Where 30% of these are considered to be a Serious ASB. So relative to 100people 1 person will be involved in a serious incident.

Relative Risk 2012 of being involved in a serious ASB	Relative Risk 2015 of being involved in a serious ASB
2.1%	1%

To achieve this though a 66% drop in foot traffic at matched times of 1am on Saturday 2012 and Saturday 2015 had to be achieved that is 1800 less people on the streets that you want to be growing. Whilst increases in foot traffic of other precincts have been noted to say that this in in direct correlation with lockout laws would be tenuous at best.

A point needs to be made here that even though the deaths of Thomas Kelly and Daniel Christie are tragic they are outlying events. It is important that this is noted as cold as it may sound because these deaths are not representative of at minimum 97% of the young population who can go out and enjoy a good night out.

The problem with basing legislative and law change of outlying events is that you are trying to say that you can stop outlying events via law change which is statistically impossible.

Final Remarks.

It is imperative that true representations of populations being interpreted when identifying possible need for law changes. Above I have shown that the majority of young kids can go out and enjoy a good night socializing and drinking. There was a remarked drop in ASB from 2010-2012 without the need for Lock out laws.

If Sydney wants to truly become a 24 hour city it needs to account for all age brackets who want to do all activities whether it be shop, dine or go out and have drinks and dance with friends. Many businesses that have been open for close to a decade e.g. "Hugos Bar" the Flinders Hotel to name a few are well established bars that closed down in direct relation to the Lockout Laws.

Whilst there is a Monoculture of an age bracket currently in the City by implementing more transport, Security, CCTV, shopping venues, late night eateries and cafes there is no reason why the vision of Sydney 2030 cannot be achieved without the need of lockout laws.

I thank you for your consideration of my review.

