

# Lockout Law Review

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the review of the lockout laws and alcohol review.

Before I begin my email, I want to make a few things very clear. I have never taken a drug in my life, I don't drink and therefore, I do not condone drunkenness, violence or drug-fuelled activity.

## To Whom It Concerns

My daughter works as a DJ predominately on Oxford St, She works to support her family; her partner and her 4 month old daughter. During the week, she is a stay-at-home mum while her partner is working excessive hours to be able to support their family to live in one of the worlds most expensive cities. They as a family were doing very well at one point, looking towards investment and the possibility of owning their own dream home. However, since the introduction of the lockout laws and a number of venues of which she was working closing (directly related to business being affect by these laws), she has seen a reduction of personal income by 80%. They are currently unable to afford the costs involved with childcare, despite the government rebate and so it is absolutely necessary for her to remain at home through the week to look after their child. This reduction in income has essentially put halt to their dreams and has put increasing emotional burden on her due to not being about afford the basic necessities in life.

One of the biggest things she has noticed since the introduction of these laws is safety. As she lives outside of the city, she always drives in and out to work from home and parking around the city can often be difficult to find close to venues and sometimes it is necessary for her to park a little further a way which means at the end of a set; sometimes 3 and 4am, she is walking the streets on her own back to her car. Prior to these laws, this was never an issue as there was always plenty of people around and she always felt incredibly safe. These days, she is now very mindful of what potentially could be lurking behind the next bush or around the next corner.

When she first started in the industry as a musician, she had moved from a smaller city so that she could live out her dream. Sydney was always the top of her list in terms of career development and fulfilment. Since the introduction of these laws, she has seen those dreams shatter in front of her whereby she now has to decide whether Sydney is the right fit for her or if she has to pack up her family, leave her friends and relatives to find better opportunities for

her career. This is no easy feat. She has seen many of her colleagues leave Sydney because the music industry is in strife with venues closing left, right and centre and not enough work to go around. Not to mention the countless, hospitality staff, security staff, small business owners with late night trading, and anyone else who has been directly affected by loss of income or business closing down due to loss of revenue.

I fear for the arts in Sydney, especially live entertainment.

It is breaking my heart to see that Sydney is no longer the vibrant, energy filled city that it was when my daughter first stepped foot into the music scene. I can only shed a tear for those who are starting in younger generations who want to have the same opportunities in pursuing their dreams but unfortunately due to these archaic laws are unable to fulfil them.

The 1.30am lockout is NOT a solution to so called 'alcohol-fuelled' violence, it is a knee-jerk reaction to a situation far greater; a neanderthal sub-culture. This can only be managed through proper education and better support from police, venues and other authorities. Ex-premier Barry O'Farrell has punished too many who are merely trying to pay their way in life, live out their own dreams and give back to a city that once embraced them. Please don't let them suffer any longer.

Thank you and kindest regards,  
Carmen Nughes