

lockout law review

KN Katrina Nughes [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Sun 3/04

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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.

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

One of the biggest things I have noticed since the introduction of these laws is safety. As I live outside of the city, I always drive 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 me to park a little further a way which means at the end of a set; sometimes 3 and 4am, I am walking the streets on my own back to my car. Prior to these laws, this was never an issue as there was always plenty of people around and I always felt incredibly safe. These days, I am now very mindful of what potentially could be lurking behind the next bush or around the next corner.

When I first started in the industry as a musician, I had moved from a smaller city so that I could live out my dream. Sydney was always the top of my list in terms of career development and fulfilment. Since the introduction of these laws, I have seen those dreams shatter in front of me whereby I am now have to decide whether Sydney is the right fit for me or if I have to pack up my family, leave my friends and relatives to find better opportunities for my career. This is no easy feat. I have seen many of my 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 I 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 of us who are merely trying to pay our way in life, live out our own dreams and give back to a city that once embraced us. Please don't let us suffer any longer.

Thank you and kindest regards,

Kat Nughes

DJ Du Jour

