

Keep Sydney Open

Laura O'Keeffe [REDACTED]

Wed 30/03/2016 2:52 PM

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

Hello Review Panel,

I would like to give my feedback on the lockout laws as part of the 2 year review that is taking place. I'm a 31 year old professional female and have worked in the CBD, Surry Hills and Darlinghurst for the past 7 years, and resided in Bondi throughout this time. This email does not have research, stats or data but is an opinion piece on the laws.

I have frequented most of the bars, restaurants and clubs in this city since I was 25 years old on most weekends. The vibrancy and atmosphere of Sydney nightlife was in a word...fun!! Full of free spirits, great music and a wonderful mix of people. I felt safe with so many other people around, and lucky to be in a city where if I wanted to stay out until 7am dancing I could, but if I wanted to go to bed early and get up for breakfast at 7am, I could also choose to do that. The only time I felt unsafe was if there was particularly aggressive security in a club.

At first when I heard about the lockout laws being introduced, I thought it was a shock but I didn't think it would impact my life too much. However, I have observed first-hand how it has impacted the city and its people so much, and only in a negative way. The excited atmosphere of Oxford St on a Saturday night in the bustling gay district is now replaced by an empty dark street and shut doors. No longer can you dance for a few hours in The Flinders then pop over to Arq to boogie til dawn. The Kings Cross hotel was a great venue to catch up with all your friends at the end of a night, but the 1.30 deadline has put an end to that tradition.

I used to feel safe and happy to go out in a city where the streets were full of young and old people having a great time. I was so lucky to live in a city where freedom was celebrated. But since the lockout, I feel like that freedom has been taken away.

My main issue is with the size of the lockout precinct. I understand that Kings Cross and some specific CBD venues had violence issues, however the entire city has been punished.

Thanks for listening,
Laura

