

We deserve to be treated as responsible citizens

Cassidy O'Sullivan [REDACTED]

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

Dear Mr Callinan,

As a 22-year-old woman who has grown up in Sydney my whole life, I am incredibly sad to see the decline of Sydney's nightlife. I returned from overseas study in Texas in 2014 to find the Sydney I knew fundamentally changed.

I attended Tara, the school next door to Kings, where Thomas Kelly attended. While Thomas' death was an unfathomable tragedy, it came at the hands of an angry, socio-economically disadvantaged lone individual who committed a criminal act. The rash response of the O'Farrell government to Thomas' death constituted the perpetration of a fraud on the citizens of Sydney. Voters were sold a quick-fix solution that was in substance no different to the oft-repeated metaphor of limiting access to cars and reducing legal driving hours in a bid to prevent car accidents. I only need to reference the stunning hypocrisy and seeming corruption of the Star Casino exemption under Mike Baird (or, as he has since become widely known, 'Casino Mike').

I'm studying Law full-time and work two jobs, so I don't go out in the CBD overly frequently. But when I do go out, I'm overwhelmed with a sense of what Sydney has lost, compared to my experiences in Sydney pre-2014 and my fantastic experiences with nightlife in Melbourne, the US, Asia and Europe. Entire neighbourhoods have lost establishments that once underpinned the community. Potts Point is a soulless wasteland now with a police presence that almost feels dystopian.

All I ask is that the government respects the many law-abiding citizens in Sydney and rethinks these draconian laws. We deserve to be treated in the same way that Melbourne's citizens are - as individuals responsible for our own choices, who are for the most part extraordinarily capable of staying within the limits of the law. This review is a step in the right direction, but I fear for the future of our vibrant city. We can't claim to be cosmopolitan or a world city as we are now - any world city has a thriving night-life that beckons to tourists and creates a sense of fun and community for its citizens alike.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Cassidy O'Sullivan
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