

# Please drop the lockout laws

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

To the liquor law review

Surely prohibition (or a variation of it) is not the right approach to address problems associated with Australia's drinking culture. When did the nanny state get to decide if I have a few beers between 2 and 7 pm or 2 and 7 am? Surely it must be the manner in which I do so that becomes problematic? Maybe there are certain big venues with continued trouble that needs to have restrictions imposed, but shutting down the area that was the city's pulse is just unfathomable. I'm embarrassed to have visitors from overseas to what used to be a great city but is now a dud. And it's obviously not just drinking venues that have been affected, live music venues are now disappearing at an alarming rate and new bands struggle to get stage time because venues can't do multiple sessions a night. In my view the laws allowing more small bars have done far more to address issues with Australia's drinking culture than the lockout laws ever will.

If you want to address violence, address it comprehensively focusing on all areas including domestic violence, not just what grabs the headline. If certain drug use is a problem, let's talk about that. Sydney is a city of 5 million people and while it's tragic to hear the stories of people being hurt as a result of violence, or even on rare occasions dying, it can not be a justification to imposing draconian laws that tell people they're not allowed to have fun after 1.30am!

The lockout laws are made for the people in the suburbs, by the people in the suburbs. If they stay in place Sydney will find itself having a brain drain of people in their twenties and thirties, as this is not an acceptable solution to what I would consider a fringe problem in a global city.

Please reconsider restricting people's, and especially young people's, ability to have fun just because of a few idiots.

Thanks  
Andreas Olsen