

Reply all | ▾



Delete

Junk | ▾



The real agenda

AP

Adam Parker [REDACTED]



Reply all | ▾

To: Liquor Law Review; ▾

Sun 3/04

Inbox

Hello,

I would like to submit the below to the liquor law review of Sydney's lockout laws. I run a licensed venue in Sydneys inner west and have worked in the hospitality industry for 10 years. I also live in [REDACTED] and often go out late at night in Sydney (usually after work where possible).

Firstly I would like to mention that in some ways the lockout laws have actually been good for our business. Shutting down Sydney at night has moved the nightlife revelers to areas such as Newtown, which hasn't been all good as I'm sure quick chat with Newtown Police or RPA will confirm. As King street has become busier and harder to negotiate for locals, our small restaurant/bar in Erskineville has experienced higher local patronage as people living in the area try to avoid the crowds. We noticed a rise in "problem" customers almost immediately but this has since died down possibly as a result of the police making an example of another local venue and eventually closing them down for attracting too many people to the area.

Although the lockouts have affected us in various ways, some advantageous and some not, I still can not agree with laws that clearly have nothing to do with the problem they are supposed to be solving.

If this was the Phillipines and the government said all venues must close at a certain time except for one venue that the Sohato family owned, we would look at them with outrage. Yet we let the casino, the most violent venue in NSW, get away with a full blown "cash in" on these laws.

As far as I have seen the statistics show that per capita you actually have more chance of being assaulted in the city at night now. While I agree that something had to change, there is no way the people of Sydney will believe that this was the right solution.

When you have a precinct such as Kings Cross where people can go out and enjoy a beverage in a venue where the staff, security and local police are all trained in how to deal with problematic punters you have a safe environment. Punishing these venues as a result of a media beat up about incidents that occurred outside venues, perpetrated by people who had not been in these venues is clearly unfair and really doesn't tackle the problem.

If the government is serious about tackling alcohol fueled violence then I expect they would be targeting big chain discount bottle shops before punishing heavily restricted and over compliant venues. The problem as I see it, is being able to buy 3 bottles of vodka for under \$100 in any local chain bottle store. And I am wondering why the media, who obviously has a lot of advertising dollars to loose, is not reporting on this. Perhaps a review in to how much domestic violence reports go up in an area with a new Dan Murphy's is something that could more constructively attack the problem.

At the end of the day, people will stand in their front yards spinning around until they are so dizzy they fall over if that's what it takes for a buzz. We can never stop people drinking. But we really can't create a more safe environment at any time of day than when they are in a licensed venue supervised by trained staff and security. In my opinion, the lockout laws as they stand have punished venues, cost jobs and possibly millions of dollars in revenue and killed an area that has been an Australian icon for decades. These laws have also completely missed the point on actually reducing alcohol fueled violence.

As a business operator and well known community member I can honestly say, from the doctors, nurses, drivers, police, hospitality workers and shift workers all over who I have been lucky enough to speak to in the last couple of years, let us enjoy a drink, peacefully, at the end of our work day. And in reviewing these laws please don't continue to punish those of us who are doing the right thing, which seems to be the vast majority.

Cheers,

Adam Parker.

General Manager
The Hive Bar

