

Lockout Law review

HP

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To: Liquor Law Review; [REDACTED]



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I arrived from London in 2014, the same weekend the lockout laws were introduced. I worked for pubs and wine bars in the City of London for almost 4 years, at a head office level and had worked behind the bar for many years before that. It would not be unusual to finish work between 1-3am and then head out to unwind, club hopping for hours.

I find not being able to buy alcohol after 10pm particularly nannying. Dinner hasn't even finished by 10pm, how could I possibly know that we'd like a bottle of wine to take home to finish off the evening when the evening is nowhere near done. 10pm?! Who comes up with this stuff. I have a standard office clerk job, yet sometimes I'm not home until after 10pm, I can't nip down to the shop to buy a night cap? In London, I could buy alcohol from most stores on the high road 24 hours a day. At 11pm they pull shutters down over the fridges and you ask at the counter, the attendant then makes the decision whether to/not to sell you the drink.

If you're familiar with the work of Margaret Heffernan, she's written a very short book on improving company culture, but the methods can be applied to any part of life. One of the points she makes is that people behave as you expect them to, ergo if you tell someone that they don't know how to consume alcohol, how to look after themselves, when to go to bed, then they'll believe that they don't know and behave accordingly. Over time, these lockout policies will have an increasingly detrimental impact on the social fabric of NSW.

The lockout laws are utterly disgusting, the blatant annihilation of culture by the NSW government is shameful. An entire generation is being denied basic freedoms, it's clear that the lockout laws are just part of wider strategy being implemented by Baird and Co. Not a day passes that another shocking policy isn't being enacted; anti-protest laws, the backflip on domestic violence support funding, the list goes on. The quiet erosion of our civil liberties is not going un-noticed. These lockout laws have forced closures on multiple businesses and we're not just talking about the clubs and bars in the zone. What about the cleaning staff for these businesses, the suppliers, taxi services...these lockout laws hit society at many levels and must be having an enormous impact on the economy.

If the government want to protect people, why are they pushing the parties underground? If you want citizens to be safe, surely you increase police and medics in the area. Lately, I hardly go out in the City, owing to the fact that it's actually quite stressful (who wants to run the 1am in gauntlet diving in and out of each venue to try and work out which one is the best???). This is in stark contrast to the UK, where I could relax and enjoy myself. The best club nights came

with their own paramedic, my favourite was Pete. Pete was great, he walked around chatting to everyone, in a non-threatening and intimidating manner, he genuinely seemed to want everyone to be safe and have a great time. He smiled. If you want to protect people, that is what you do. Currently, parties are pushed underground, people pour their own drinks and consume whatever substances they care to and if things go awry...who knows? Not only that, but maybe there wouldn't be drug deaths at festivals, if people feeling peculiar after a dodgy pill felt like they could tell someone without fear that they would be charged. How can you criminalise in this way? It's wholly immoral. Get more Pete the medics. Instruct your police to protect and serve the People, not your own interests.

End the Lockouts

Remove the 10pm off-sale restriction

Regards

Helen Phelps

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