

My review

James Phillips [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review [REDACTED]

Dear Inquirer,

I work at one of the best hostels in Sydney and indeed the world. I see first hand the reaction international visitors have and the changed view they have of Sydney due to these draconian and freedom-restricting liquor laws. It pains me to have to tell a backpacker at 10pm as he is about to start getting prepared for his night out that he cannot buy any alcohol anywhere and that he can really only choose one venue to spend his night as he won't be able to go outside past 1.30am and it will be closed at 3am. When questioned on places to go out I also unfortunately have to explain that many good clubs have closed down as a result of the strangling consequences these laws have on small entertainment venues. Our reputation as a world city is being destroyed each passing day as people realize that you're not able to stay out late in Sydney, you don't have that freedom here.

More than anything, it is this restriction on civil liberties and freedom of ordinary citizens that is truly saddening and a path that a democratic nation like ourselves should not follow. The actions of a few should not mean a blanket punishment for other law abiding citizens that are never violent when drunk and who, for their own personal reasons, want to have the freedom to go out as late as they want.

It must seem obvious to you that lock out laws are not a real solution to the problem we face. The problem is not alcohol or being out at 3am, there is a complex, underlying cultural issue with violence and it is not something that a band-aid solution like these laws will fix. There are still countless instances of assault that still happen and even the assaults of Daniel Christie happened before 10pm, meaning that the lockout laws, if they'd been in place would have done nothing to stop his death.

It is quite clear, however, that those deaths were just used as an excuse. The lock out laws scream corruption to anybody who looks at them even briefly. Why is it that the most violent venue in Sydney is exempt from the lockout zone and Barangaroo will be too? It is absolutely disgusting.

I have not mentioned all the issues with these laws as there are so many but I wanted to make a submission with just a few points. I want thought-out, research-based policy making. I do not want pathetic knee-jerk reactionary, ill-considered and downright corrupt laws such as these. Please help Sydney to regain its status as a world city that people can have fun in at any time of day or night once more.

Thank you,

James Phillips