

Comments with respect to the current liquor laws in Kings Cross and central Sydney.

George Pinniger [REDACTED]

Wed 30/03/2016 11:07 PM

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

My name is George Pinniger; I am virtually a teetotaller myself, so am not directly affected, however, I am strongly opposed to the current liquor laws on several grounds.

Firstly, it appears that the claim of a large reduction in liquor-related violence is grossly exaggerated.

Secondly, I have been advised that the 'accounting' is distorted, insofar as those who have been drinking in the City/Cross are included in the statistics even if the violence occurs subsequently, and even very distant from the central region - so that invalidly differentiates them from people involved in similar confrontations after having been drinking elsewhere. More seriously, since there are no night trains to take people away from the places where lockout laws are in force it means they are forced either to hang around or find a bus to take them away. If they do stay and can't go into a bar a number of them take drugs instead.

Fourthly, it is unjust that many clubs and bars have to prevent people entering, and eventually close the bar to alcohol while the Casino is not required to do the same. There is inequity in this, and although it's probable that no violence would occur there, the impression is that different rules apply in different places.

Fifthly, it is true that near-city suburbs such as Newtown now have potential problems, though they don't have the police presence or the logistical capacity to deal with hooliganism (narrow streets, dim lighting, etc.).

Finally, as is commonly described, it reduces the income of pubs and clubs while their rent is unlikely to be reduced, and the staff have also lost a significant portion of their wages. In many cases these are students trying to make enough through service work to maintain them while they are studying.

Thank you for your attention, George