

lockout law comment

David Polson [REDACTED]

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

Dear Sir/Madam

I have been a resident of Potts Point for over 30 years and in that time I have seen a steady decline in behaviour of night time revellers. 30 years ago there were a lot of people out having fun and yes there were some intoxicated people and yes there were some people who were violent and aggressive. But this was the exception not the norm. People were simply out to enjoy themselves. It appears to me and many others that in the past 5 or so years the number of violent, aggressive and threatening intoxicated behaviour has increased very quickly until we saw the huge peak of this appalling behaviour that sadly lead to the deaths of two young men and scores of others being badly hurt.

Before the lock out laws Friday and Saturday nights steadily grew into a nightmare. I would not go out on these nights or if I did it was only in the company of friends and even then I felt very intimidated and wary for my safety. At that time I had a dog and on Saturday and Sunday mornings when walking my dog I was appalled by the number of garbage bins that had been deliberately knocked over and rubbish strewn everywhere, often windows had been broken or I saw other damage to properties. There would always be a huge amount of vomit on the streets and the stench of urine dominated the air. This was a regular weekend experience for me. I would also be kept awake late at night with screaming and yelling from intoxicated/drugged individuals.

Since the lock out laws there has been a blissful peace over Kings Cross/Potts Point.

However I do think that it is a sad indictment on our society that such laws had to be introduced to curb this horrid anti social behaviour.

Whilst I welcomed the introduction of the lock out laws and would certainly like to see them continue I do think that as well as these laws, maybe schools AND parents should look at educating their children into acceptable social behaviour and the responsible use of alcohol. (This of course, I know, is not in your jurisdiction but simply an observation.) European cities, on the whole, don't have this problem, it seems to be a cultural issue here in Australia and until that is addressed this problem will never really go away, it will just shift to another area as we have seen.

I would urge you to keep the lock out laws as they are.

Yours sincerely

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