

22 February 2016

Ian Callinan QC  
Sydney Lockout Laws review

Dear Ian

My name is Jamie Powell, I have been providing event services to international corporate clients for 20 years. I strongly oppose the draconian measures or "Lockout laws" that have been implemented across Sydney and I appreciate your time in hearing why.

I realise that there was a situation where a young man was killed and there needed to be a response as 1 death is too many. However I don't see any correlation between a terrible situation at 8pm being solved by cessation of trading at 130am. I also do not see a correlation between liquor sales being ceased at 10pm from licensed outlets when the alcohol in this unfortunate incident was purchased from Woolworths during the day.

My business has regular opportunities to show the world how great and safe NSW is. I have worked on submissions for World Expo, The Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games. Our client list includes AUDI, NAB and Amway. Our goal is to bring delegates to Sydney for an experience and reward that they take home with them to spread the word to others to meet their goals.

My quotes compete with Singapore, Hong Kong, Denpasar and Bangkok. I produce events averaging from \$200k to \$3 million. I hire Drivers, Chefs, Wait staff, hotel rooms and function spaces, Audio Visual crew, local entertainers and content presenters, DJ's, Valets and restaurants to name but a few. On average we hire from 30 to 100 staff per event.

Allow me to outline a typical day on one of my events.

0800 - 0900 Breakfast,

0900 - 1300 Conference,

1300 -1400 Lunch

1400 -1700 Conference

1700 - 1800 Free time

1800 - 2300 Dinner and Awards ceremony

2300 - 0400 Conference themed entertainment

Having these "lockouts" destroys our ability to provide for our clients after their conference. An after conference wind down is an essential part and clients find this is the most productive time to discuss or absorb the days content.

This part of the quote is where we spend most of our time, organising these valuable 3 to 4 hours and without them it's a deal breaker.

Telling people after a long day they can go out for one or two drinks then they are either locked in or have to go home is the most embarrassing thing I have had to explain in my 20 year's as an event producer.

In the first 8 months of these laws being introduced I experienced a 35% drop in quote opportunities, the next 9 months up to 80%. At this present time I have been informed Sydney is no longer on the list and all our shows are produced in other cities. From supporting myself and subcontractors to nothing in less than 2 calendar years.

When my clients are choosing a city, a vibrant nightlife is at the top of the list. Social time is the real reason they are here.

There is no better way to explain the ridiculousness of these laws but to point out who is exempt. As a Sydney resident I'm offended that the casinos Star and soon to open Crown gain exemptions to these laws when Star Casino is one of NSW's most violent venue's, where people have been killed by security guards.

Sydney must be a 24hour city for our location in the world and also for our reputation as one of the best places on earth to visit. Sydney was and is the safest city in the world. The Olympics put us on the world map and If these laws are not changed we will never burn that brightly ever again.

Over the years I have worked with and employed security guards and Police. I have always had a positive working relationship with them.

There are many options open to lawmakers to curb antisocial behaviour. From more Police on the street, CCTV cameras to monitor hotspots, 24hour public transport and harsher penalties for antisocial behaviour.

To punish the many for the sins of the few is incomprehensible in a modern Australia and mind-blowing that it could come from a government calling themselves Liberal. Millions and Millions of dollars are being spent on our new convention centre at Darling Harbour and this could be a waste of money if there is nothing to go along side it.

Lockout laws are a cultural Skewer that will cost this state dearly in reputation and lost revenue, over time this will cause irreparable damage to our ability to stand on the world stage in any field.

Sincerely yours,

Jamie Powell

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