

Sydney's Lock-Out Laws

bruno quintal [REDACTED]

Wed 30/03/2016 1:57 PM

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I absolutely agree with your mission to reduce violence. Unfortunately the lock-out laws are not a successful way to make this happen.

Mike Baird mentioned on his facebook post that assaults are down by 42%. Statistics show that foot traffic is down by at least 60% though, which means it's actually more dangerous to be on the streets now.

At the risk of sounding "hysterical" I agree with the statement that Sydney's nightlife culture and its businesses are dying. There's no room for trial sets for new DJs anymore. Clubs are only able to open for reduced hours and they put their best and most experienced DJs in to try and hold the crowd. How are we going to be able to discover and nurture new talent in this situation?

On Saturday I was at a new club night put on by two of our great local DJs who both play internationally and have a great following. I arrived at 12:30am and the place was busy, but by 1:15am it had cleared out because everyone wanted to get into Arq before the lockout. The lock-out laws mean small clubs and bars, or underground and experimental nights are struggling to be financially (and creatively) viable.

The ability to experiment with music and performance is dying in Sydney.

The ability to choose two, three or four venues to go over the course of a night has already died in Sydney. Venues, such as Jimmy Liks, once my favourite restaurant, have now closed their doors.

When you're reviewing the lock-out laws I urge you to consult with the nightlife industry you're destroying. Please! Surely working together to find a solution will be more successful than simply locking people outside.

The real problem in Sydney is a binge drinking culture. More education on responsible consumption of alcohol and better public transport throughout the night are viable solutions to both educate and allow people to plan their nights better. Lack of public transport means that many people loiter in the streets as they don't have the means to get home or the only option available, known as a taxi, isn't always viable.

Surely Tourism is important to Sydney and these lock-outs will discourage international tourists from wanting to visit our vibrant city if they can't enjoy the nightlife that they are accustomed to in their countries.

I grew up in a wonderful city and would like my children to be awarded the same privilege and right of passage; please don't take this from us and our city.

Kind Regards,

Bruno Quintal