

From: Kane Race [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Sunday, 10 April 2016 5:58 PM
To: Ian Callinan
Subject: Liquor, Gaming and Policing in NSW: Oxymoronic Government

Dear Hon. Ian Callinan,

Though I realise the deadline for the lockout review has passed, I would like to forward to you a letter of inquiry I wrote to the Deputy Premier, Troy Grant, today.

I hope it might be assist in your deliberations.

I have also produced an analysis and critique of relevant governmental practices and their effects in the following piece: <https://homotectonic.com/2016/04/08/the-exemplary-power-of-the-casino-state/>

Best,

Kane Race

Associate Professor Kane Race

School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

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Dear Deputy Premier

Like many Sydney-siders, I have been watching with interest and some concern your restructuring of the (once independent) Office of Liquor and Gaming.

I've also been following your steadfast resistance, as Police Minister, to the use of harm reduction measures that might actually save a few young people's lives at music festivals (such as pill testing).

Like an increasing number of Sydney-siders, I can't help but be amazed by the oxymoronic policy practices of the current NSW government.

For example, you cite the principles of harm reduction with approval on the Liquor & Gaming Website <https://www.liquorandgaming.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/gaming/responsible-...>

But you deem similar principles "criminal" when they are used to inform measures that might actually reduce the harms of ongoing illicit drug use, such as pill testing.

I'm sure you're aware that gambling is a major contributor to family breakdown, socioeconomic inequality, and mainly appeals to the most economically desperate and vulnerable members of the population.

In this instance, your government seems very eager indeed to make the consumer responsible for managing the dangers of a form of consumption whose revenue you rely on, and disown any responsibility for the situations this licensed commodity gets many people into.

It puzzles me, then, why you can't extend the same sort of principles to those who consume commodities that your government has manifestly failed to regulate. This failure strikes me as irresponsible in the extreme.

Perhaps you will respond by pointing to the increasing arrest rates of people in possession of minor amounts of illicit substances, as a result of drug dog operations. But I don't know a single expert in the drug policy field internationally who would even begin trying to support such a disastrously ineffective, costly and counterproductive measure, which - contrary to the principles of drug harm minimisation - have been shown to punish petty users and have almost never, ever, caught a major drug trafficker.

One question I have for you is what initiatives your government is currently pursuing to ensure better coordination between law enforcement, criminal justice, and public health agencies, in the interests of public health outcomes. This is, of course, a whole of government issue - one that demands a response from the Minister of Police, and/or the Premier's Department, and the Liquor and Gaming agencies – and I request that you do not palm off this inquiry to the Ministry of Health, as your office has on previous occasions.

What perplexes me more than anything else – and forgive me for the personal nature of this question – is how you, as a man who claims to be a Christian, manages to reconcile your conscience with this patent policy contradiction and inconsistency, when people's lives, fortunes, health and safety - including the safety of the young and the poor - are at stake.

I'd be very interested to hear your response.

Yours sincerely
Kane Race

I would like a response: Yes

I would like to receive regular updates from the NSW Government: No

End of message

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