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Remove the restrictions - Going out at night is the beauty of the first world

NR Nicole Renvoize Reply all | To: Liquor Law Review; 

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To Whom it May Concern,

There is a huge amount of hard evidence that determines the lockout laws only work, because nobody goes out anymore, less people less incident. We all know that, if you banned cars, nobody would die on the roads either! I could link you to statistics, but we all know this, it's not new. Cars wouldn't be banned 'they are essential'. Backyard pools too - have drownings every year, you put a fencing restriction in - but they're not banned. Saying you can still go out is a lie only peddled by those who never went out in the first place. Those who go out, are varied and diverse, but the primary thing (the majority) of us have in common, is youth, in fact, we're just those who enjoy the vibrancy of being out and around our friends and like minded individuals. An example - I am 22, I work full-time as an IT consultant, it was easy for me to have a night out till 4 am. My friends are similar, young professionals, who just want to go out. The key here, we have no other options, we all live either with parents or in 30sqm, if we want to socialise, we need to go out. Clubs and pubs were a way to do this, 2 deaths does not necessitate banning an action and punishing a demographic. However, this is what has happened, the young people, who don't have houses of our own, are being banned from socialising. This goes against precedence, and creates a nanny state, low risk levels, or indeed risk levels at all does not justify banning people from going out, as seen below, these laws have done exactly that. There are three major parts of the restrictions I will address, the 1:30am lockout, no shots after 12, and the 3am last drinks.

Lockouts - These often end your night at 1am, when queues for the last remaining (boring) venues are half an hour long, people desperate not to get left out. Often you do, the venue is too full, not a sign of prosperity, quite the opposite, the lack of variety results in all of us flocking to the major venues in an attempt to get in SOMEWHERE, that at least has some people. This is the worst part of the restriction, this cripples clubs and ends your night. If you do get in, and the club is slowing, it's another night ender - no chance for the vibe to pick up, because nobody can get in. This is the worst rule, and the most essential to go, there is NO correct lockout time, let the free market decide what is appropriate, we are adults.

3am cease alcohol sales- If a bar/club/pub has made it past the 1:30am knife in the back - they are forced to close at 3. A venue can not be expected to operate if it's primary mode of income has been cut off. 3am seems late if you work 9-5, but we don't live in that reality, a 24h city is

simply a reflection of the global economy, some people finish at 2am, some start at 6am, and some are almost nocturnal. Deciding 3am is 'reasonable' to go home is ludicrous, and hurts the image of a globalised city.

No shots after midnight - Alcohol is legal, this is simple, if it's legal let people consume it. Similarly to above, midnight seems like the 'average' person has been drinking since approx. 7pm, but what if you only finished work at 11? The government does not have a right to decide what time constitutes an acceptable time to take a shot, that is on the head of the individual.

There are simple solutions that target the actual violence, rather than the going out culture: Increased police presence. Funded by the tax revenue gained from the higher degree of success of the businesses - easy! Free busses travelling every 10 mins from 'hot spot's' to central. Similarly, every \$ lost in revenue for the bar/club/pub results in lessened tax revenue, bring that back, pay for these services, and we will still be ahead financially.

Finally look to other cities that manage these problems, without the need to restrict the freedom of its citizens and tourists: New orleans, London, Amsterdam- All of these cities, have less of a problem with violence, yet are liberal with their 'going out' culture.

Now the key, why does this matter? We are a 'free' first world country, leisure is the forefront of development and prosperity. Taking this away, in any form, is ludicrous. It's simple these laws, intended to curb violence, have simply closed down the nightlife of the city. Sydney loses, travellers loose, young people are punished. I used to love Sydney, now I'm looking at Melbourne, and I'm not the only one - please give us our city back, we miss Sydney.

Kind Regards,
Nicole Renvoize