

Submission re: Independent review of the impact of liquor law reforms

Susan Robertson [REDACTED]

Wed 30/03/2016 2:14 PM

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

My name is Susan Robertson and I have worked in the music industry since 1989 (27 years). I manage two independent artists – the multi-platinum selling, and internationally successful duo Sneaky Sound System, and emerging DJ/producer Nicky Night Time. Nicky’s last three singles all reached #1 on the ARIA Club Chart.

Their careers – and therefore mine – are conditional upon a vibrant live music industry. Since the emergence of the lockout laws, the opportunity to generate live income has been severely hampered. Less venues equals less demand for DJs and musicians. Less venues equals less opportunity for new artists to explore, hone and refine their craft. Less artists equal less demand for managers.

A dying live music industry means less opportunities for fans to discover new music and invest in our local musical artists.

On a personal note, in my late teens and early 20s I lived in Darlinghurst and spent every Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights (and let’s be honest, many early mornings) seeing bands and going to nightclubs, and it was there I developed my love for music – Australian music in particular. As a young female during this time I never experienced violence or felt unsafe in Kings Cross. It was a happy, supportive, welcoming, inclusive mish-mash of bikies, goths, rockers, tourists and musicians.

The violence and binge drinking culture is an endemic issue that needs a better thought out solution than just blanket lockout laws. Innocent people through no fault of their own are negatively impacted because of the irresponsible behaviour of a small sector of our community.

Lockout laws aren’t the solution. And after 27 years in the music industry, if the live music scene is killed off any further I’ll be another innocent bystander in line at the unemployment office.

Susan Robertson
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