

# Lockout laws

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To: Liquor Law Review; 

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Hi

I'm writing in regards to the lockout laws soon to be up for review in Sydney. First and foremost-I understand that most of what I'm about to type has been said multiple times already, but I feel that it is relevant to submit my own opinion in the hopes that my voice may yet be heard.

These laws are a poor solution to a real problem. What makes this worse is that this poor solution is affecting not only the problem, but so many other factors. To the lockouts themselves being introduced to reduce alcohol related violence: They aren't, not as far as I can see anyway. There of course have been sources that suggest they have been helpful until you look at the data supporting that evidence and find it's dishonestly represented.

The violence has not stopped, it has moved. It has moved to the casino which for some god awful reason was exempted from the lockouts (should we really be encouraging young people to think that going out for a drink and gambling are synonymous?). It has moved to outer areas such as Newtown which while great for the areas restaurants and pubs i'm sure, isn't equipped to deal with the later stages of nightlife. Walking through Newtown at 3am there is no food available and all the convenience stores are closed. There is no where to find water. These are all considered essential basics when we talk about responsible service of alcohol and the area is not equipped for the culture that Kings Cross used to be a bastion of. It has moved to 3 am. There is now a race at 3am for any remaining dregs of public transport and fights over taxis. All of this is quite frankly ridiculous.

Add that to the reduced availability of hospitality work, the blatant destruction of the Kings Cross area in regards to nightlife, and the lack of other options post 10 pm (bottle stores being closed is a minor inconvenience-you can buy beforehand in preparation regardless of whether you intend to be violent or not) and these laws can be clearly seen as poorly thought out, or at the very least planned without the goal of violence reduction (casino making bank, housing prices in Kings Cross rapidly increasing).

The solutions (that I can see anyway): 24 hour weekend public transport. There would be no

need to be aggressive about transport if there were many options not rapidly dissipating as you were kicked out of the venues. Education. Educate the populace about the effects and risks of alcohol. This is being done through the Plan B campaign being run, and im sure though our school system as well, but if people for whatever reason think getting violent is ok, that isn't an alcohol problem, that is a violence problem. We need to treat it as such and address the core problem rather than exacerbated scenarios under the influence of a drug.

Of course-much of what I have typed might have been refuted to a degree, or may be lacking sources (the limits of an impromptu email) but hopefully some of this rant will contribute to looking at the major problems these laws are causing for the hospitality industry and people who enjoy bars.

Martin