







Re: lock out laws review

vs Vickie Seymour [REDACTED]

  Reply all | 

To: Liquor Law Review; 

3:24 PM

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> To whom it may concern

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> I have been a resident in the [REDACTED] area for nearly 20 years.

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> When I first moved into the area it was lively but there was always a level of respect between those who lived and those who visited the area. Over the last few years prior to the lockout I saw this respect diminish greatly. It became the norm for visitors to the area behave in a way that in any other city wouldn't be tolerated. It seemed there was an attitude of "let's go to the Cross and do and behave however we please" Behaviours such as vomiting and urinating in the street and in doorways was a common occurrence. When coming home after a dinner out I was often subjected to being verbally yelled at when I asked if I could get past to gain access to my unit by intoxicated groups of people slumped in my door way. It is in no way pleasant to have to walk past a group of young men urinating in your street. It seemed at the time the solution was to install portable urinals which were often not used and I felt sent a message that you can do as you like but just make sure you have some level of decency and stop urinating on residents doorsteps.

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> It felt the area was always on edge and had an uneasy feeling. I speak not only for myself but also other friends who live in the area when I say at times it didn't feel safe when coming home at night any time after 9pm. I witnessed a number of fights and violence towards and between men and women. The bad behaviour wasn't only directed towards people it was also the senseless damage to others property. On more than one occasion a number of the cars particularly those parked in Kellett Way had their side mirrors kicked in, street signs destroyed and common areas vandalised. Garbage was left all over the ground. There was no concept that this was people's neighbourhood and shouldn't be treated like a garbage tip.

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> It wasn't unusual to see young people sitting in the gutter in Bayswater Road as they tried in vain to get into one of the clubs. I witnessed a number of young men asleep on the sidewalks as the sun came up.

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> It wasn't just at night there was a feeling of unsafety or having to deal with abusive or unwanted attention. Going to the gym on a Friday morning for a 6am gym class it wasn't uncommon for one of the bars to be full of intoxicated people and for me to be yelled at. In no way should that kind of behaviour be considered acceptable or warranted because of the post code you choose to live in.

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> Over my 20 years I've seen a number of changes taking place. This is often referred to as the 'gentrification of the area' which basically started when a number of the hotels started to convert into residences. In my opinion the area was always going to change due to its close proximity to the city. Surely the increase of residential premises comes with it a responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment? In addition to this it could be argued that people can't be expected to pay high real estate prices and be subjected to such poor behaviour.

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> Recently I've noticed that the area is absolutely bustling with people particularly on the weekend when the markets are crowded with people supporting the small businesses that set up stalls. The coffee shops and restaurants are booming and there is a real community atmosphere. Surely this is the kind of environment to be encouraged not one that is fuelled by alcohol, violence and negative behaviour. I challenge anyone to come into the Kings Cross area on a weeknight or weekend and not agree that it is vibrant and diverse.

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> I love my suburb and want it to be one that is inclusive, safe and community orientated. I despair that should the lock out laws be removed that the area will return to how it was before they were in place and it will be once again acceptable for people to treat it and its residents with disrespect and for the violence to be tolerated.

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> Thank you for your time in reading my submission.

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> Kind regards

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> Vickie Seymour

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