

Submission for Impact of Liquor Law reforms

Sheppard, Katie [REDACTED]

Thu 31/03/2016 10:44 AM

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

First and foremost, I would request that the 10pm curfew for bottle-shops is changed. When distribution is used, in conjunction with the RSA, there should be no reason as to why alcohol cannot be purchased over the counter after 10pm. Many people I know work long hours, and often dinner parties run late into the evening. Why I cannot purchase a bottle of wine on my way home from work because of 2 young kids who were punched by thugs, is beyond me. Add to that, these kids were punched early in the evening, highlighting that the hours don't make a difference. And they certainly weren't on their way to pick up a bottle of 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon.

Secondly – it's really important to realise how much of a global city this is. We cannot shelter ourselves from a rise in violence, by cutting off access to what should be "safe spaces". I am more likely to be assaulted on the street, than I am in a club – and at least in a club, I have bouncers, and bar staff, and managers roaming around ensuring the safety of their patrons. Although saying this, they are so fearful of being shut-down now, that any possibly suspect behavior forces the bouncers to kick people out. I was escorted out at midnight, after being told I was too intoxicated as I was "dancing with my eyes shut" to an oldskool rave dj – All ravers dance with their eyes shut!! Yes, I had had a few drinks – perhaps 4-5 since 9pm. I was certainly not intoxicated. Midnight in a nightclub in the Cross, I should be able to dance how I want. I was with 20 friends who were there to see an international DJ from Scotland. I was in the VIP section. I wasn't bumping into anyone, I wasn't spilling drinks, I wasn't being in any way obnoxious or dangerous, and the promoters and dj's tried to intervene to keep me in the club - yet the bouncers put me out on the street, on my own. How is this looking after the safety of their patrons. I've been clubbing in Sydney for over 20 years – if this had happened in the 90;s or 00's, they would have come up to me, said "no more drinks – have a coke / red bull / water" and left to check on me in half an hour. And sweet – it's how it should be. Not "Get out, because we might lose our licence" – that's not taking the safety of their patrons as paramount. (And the fact I remember all of this shows my lack of intoxication)

Thirdly – to state that all these laws that have been put in place are for our safety is ridiculous, seeing as the Casino is exempt. The corruption in this is so obvious, it's almost embarrassing for those involved. Gone are the days when a few bribes under the table to go un-noticed. Social media is the new playground, and word spreads fast and wide. The electorate is awake to these deals, and they become more glaringly obvious as the days go on.

Packer doesn't get his own rules.

Sydney can still be safe and open at the same time. It's not alcohol that is causing the majority of these problems we are seeing, it is ice and meth and coke, with a lack of respect for society by certain kinds of individuals who think it is fun to go out and cause shit. You're never going to stop that kind of behavior because it lies with the individual. Closing clubs and bars to stop this won't work.

Make the right choices for the majority of the people, not for the unfortunate few.

Katie Sheppard | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NOTICE: This email and any attachments may contain confidential and proprietary information of [REDACTED] and is for the sole use of the intended recipient for the stated purpose. Any improper use or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender; do not review, copy or distribute; and promptly delete or destroy all transmitted information. Please note that all communications and information transmitted through this email system may be monitored and retained by [REDACTED] or its agents and that all incoming email is automatically scanned by a third party spam and filtering service which may result in deletion of a legitimate e-mail before it is read by the intended recipient.