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The definition of insanity - lock out laws

ES

Emily Shurey To: Liquor Law Review; 

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Sun 3/04

Inbox

I've just returned to Australia after living in Berlin Germany for 6 years.

In all that time I never saw a fight on the streets or issues with alcohol fuelled violence. I never saw a fight in a club, outside a club or anywhere related to bars/clubs/music. I never felt unsafe walking the streets at night and always knew i would have a great night out, no matter where I was or who I was with.

And in this is a city, it has more clubs, bars and alcohol served than Sydney. In Berlin You can buy a beer for a €1.20 from the equivalent of a 7 11 and drink it on the street!!! But still I felt more safe and there was less violence than in Sydney with all the rules created to protect me!

I have not spent time researching why Berlin doesn't have the so called alcohol fuelled violence Sydney seems to have, but if I was looking to really help a city heal I would be studying the reasons why it works there and other city's around the world, and why it's not working here, before introducing an extension on a law that already had shown that it's not really working!! (I mean if you look at it for real and don't hide behind made up stats!!)

We need true leadership in the community. Rather than looking to add more rules and regulations that are not working (they may politically work for voting because you can show you did something that looks good on paper / in the paper, but actually makes things worse in the long run, but that's ok because by then you've moved on to your next job and no longer responsible for the laws you've implemented) and actually do something radical that fixes the issue!

In Berlin you can go out all weekend if you like, some clubs never close, you can get a drink any time. In my opinion has created a culture that are self responsible. Where in Australia our rules have created the opposite. Here the bar person is responsible for an individual not knowing there limits and thus I never need to learn because

I'm not responsible for my own drinking actions someone else is!!! There is no mad rush to drink everything you can before the bar/club closes and that's the end of your night in Berlin. You're not angrily walking around in groups because you can't get in anywhere because in Berlin you can walk on somewhere else and continue and even buy a drink from the 7 111 for your way home!

I urge you to look around the world at locations that don't have our issues and think. I urge you to do something radically different that could cause a radically different result. I ask you to lead, inspire and empower your community rather than to rule over it.

Sent from my iPhone