

Musician Daren Sirbough: Voicing Opinions on Liquor Laws.

Daren Sirbough [REDACTED]

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

First and foremost thank you for taking the time to read this submission.

I am a 29 year old Musician and Teacher at the Australian Institute of Music. My income is based partly on teaching and partly on freelance work and the night time economy.

As a teacher, my duties are to facilitate a better understanding of music to students and to help them develop into professional musicians and confident people.

As a freelancer, my duties are often facilitating the music at an event/concert and helping provide culture and entertainment to an event/concert. My own development as a thoughtful musician has helped me make a living out of this for the past four years.

The night time economy is an important factor in my employment. From 2013-2014 I ran a regular Monday night event at the White Horse where other musicians, friends and people off the street would come in to enjoy music being played by a band. We would often invite other guest musicians to come on board to be a part of creating some beautiful music. This was a great time for my own personal development as a musician and as a member of the music scene in Sydney.

One of the most difficult challenges I have faced in continuing my development as a musician and being able to make a living off it is the opportunities to make music in licensed venues and my own personal development as an artist. Unfortunately with the lock out laws and the freezing on new licenses, the opportunities have decrease drastically. I have had to take different kinds of work in order to continue being able to live in Sydney.

A bar with a live band as the feature (not a dj or an acoustic guitarist in the background) helps to develop culture and relationships within the community and those opportunities have currently ceased for me. Poker machines do not. They devastate families and individuals and are a leading cause in suicide.

As a teacher, I am potentially giving students a degree without being able to tell them that they may not be able to find work as a musician in Sydney because of the lack of opportunity. There is a high output of amazing talent coming out of Sydney and with nowhere to go, many of these people have either moved to Melbourne or overseas where the opportunities are.

When considering what part alcohol has to play in this, I do not condone the act of binge drinking and getting absolutely hammered and being anti-social. I do not condone any form of violence against anyone and I condemn the acts of the very few that cannot be trusted to not binge drink and to act socially. In my opinion, the penalties for these types of people must be severe and there must be more done to educate people about their social responsibility to the rest of the community.

The night time economy serves thousands of small business owners, university students, migrants and the general public that enjoy a few glasses of wine with their food or go out to party and have a good time without resorting to anti social behaviour. These people should not be punished because of the actions of a few. We must take a hard look at what the actual issue is and I do not believe it is the lockouts.

I want the lockouts revoked and a campaign started to educate people on smart practices of drinking and the social and criminal implications of not doing so.

Daren Sirbough
Musician | Composer

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