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There must be a better way

LS

Lee Sloan To: Liquor Law Review; 

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Fri 1/04

Inbox



Action Items



I understand that you are conducting a review of the lockout laws in Sydney and I would like to make a short submission.

I used to live in Sydney until 2008, but now reside in London. However, I have been visiting friends and family over the last week and I must say that the current legislation seems ridiculously over-protective. I understand the factors that drove the legislation to be initially imposed - primarily the incidence of alcohol related violence causing serious injury and deaths. However I don't see how locking people out of pubs and onto the street, when they are likely already intoxicated, will do anything to calm them. If anything, I think it would lead to frustration and therefore potentially more violent outcomes.

Other cities do not seem to require such draconian laws to allegedly protect their citizens - Melbourne seems to be doing ok and in San Francisco, New York and London, for instance, there are a number of bars and clubs that are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. What is it about Sydneysiders that requires them to be nannied so vehemently then? Are they less adult than citizens of these other cities? Less trustworthy?

The only tangible outcome I can actively see occurring in Sydney now is that the nightlife has died. Being unable to move between bars after 1.30 is not useful - it seems to have stifled the cultural scene in Sydney and left the whole affected area a ghost town after dark.

And I would question the hypocrisy of allowing the casino to remain open. Is it really acceptable to encourage drunk people to lose their money on the poker table whilst continuing to drink when you won't allow them to make equally poor choices consuming alcohol in a venue that has live music or dancing? At least one of these choices arguably leads to a better cultural outcome - something that, in my opinion, Sydney now badly needs.

I hope my comments are useful. If you have questions or require clarification of anything, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Lee Sloan.

Sent from my iPhone