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Sydney Lock out law.

RS Robyn smith 

To: Liquor Law Review; 



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Sun 3/04

Inbox

Dear Sir/Madam,

Regarding The Review on the Lockout Laws.

I am a business owner and live in  and hate to admit I am over 60 yrs but still young at heart. Occasionally I still get dressed up to go into our beautiful city to have a Fun Night Out. My oldest daughter enjoys showing us all the new trendy transformed pubs. Most have live bands with dance floors and afterwards there are numerous quirky coffee/ icecream or food bars that stay open late.

My relatives live in Sydney and mentioned how ruined Sydney had become and I started to read thousands of posts on Keep Sydney Open. It has been devastating to read the Lock out Laws have destroyed the once iconic inner city of Sydney in such a short time. The police were even deleting comments. (Big brother came true) It is so sad reading how over 50 businesses closed down and all the thousands of staff, bartenders, taxi drivers and associated trades lost their jobs. It must be so depressing for those business owners and staff and I wonder how they surviving financially and mentally.

I am surprised they have not started a class action over this.

I read how the once thriving Music Industry of Sydney has been decimated by these laws. Many famous Australian bands started playing at clubs that no longer exist and the young new bands have no where to play. The current youth, office workers in the city, university students etc have been really hurt and it was amazing how over 15,000 people were angry enough to rise up and protest through the streets against this lock out law. The youth are getting very disillusioned about their future in Australia now as jobs are scarce and hard to come by. They miss the night life that was taken away through no fault of their own. Also the recent new law taking away their right to protest is against our civil rights and freedom of speech is very disturbing.

When we were young we were not over regulated with all these laws. Most of us have gone out to have a FUN NIGHT OUT into cities all over Australia. I met my husband at 3 am in a club in Adelaide 35 years ago after going in and out of 4 other pubs. After having a few dances he took me to a new club in town that had a space invader game and played it until 5 am. Under your new law I would have never got married. Now if you get locked into a boring club you can not get out to go into a more exciting club after 1.30 am. Most young people go out at night to meet someone of the opposite sex, and even Mr Baird met his wife going out into the city. My oldest daughter also finally met her husband going out into the city. I read the 50 businesses closed down due to the lack of FOOT TRAFFIC between the venues after the lock out laws were

put in place. It was so depressing reading how they had to shut their doors, also a 24 hour news agent closed after 80 years of business due to lack of foot traffic.

Tourists visiting Sydney must be shocked to see all the For Sale and Lease Signs on the Buildings and have no where to go at night in the city. By looking at the pictures it has now turned into a Ghost town. You read that the developers are waiting like Vultures. Sydney used to be famous World Wide for it's iconic King's Cross and Vibrant night Life. Taxi drivers are embarrassed to drive overseas visitors into the city as there is nothing open and nowhere to go. It is EMBARRASSING for Australia as Sydney used to be the place to visit.

Now the only venue open is the Casino. How hypocritical! Why is a large rich corporation allowed to stay open whilst you do not seem to care about how the government destroyed 50 small businesses and all those jobs. Obviously the casino pays the government huge amounts of money from the gambling machines. The smaller businesses that Sydney used to have give character and flavour to a city.

Quantas is now advertising fly to Melbourne for the weekend. Melbourne was smart and did not go with these laws and now has a fantastic night life with 24 hour public transport. Even sleepy Adelaide would be more exciting than Sydney now as we have our Fringe, Womat and FestIval of Arts.

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When you travel overseas, you can visit and explore the inner city or downtown area to get a feel of the culture and to have a FUN night out. Not everybody drinks in excess. Most Adults are responsible drinkers or soon learn to drink responsibly as you can't drink and drive. Other cities do not have police officers with sniffer dogs continually going into clubs and restaurants ruining the atmosphere or laws stopping them from buying a bottle of wine after 10 pm.

There was no need to rush this law in to punish 99.99 % of the population due to two unfortunate deaths. Life is a risk, there are car accidents every day, 2 women die every week due to domestic violence, people fall off ladders and die of accidents in the building industry, lightning strikes, smoking etc. The roll on consequences of this law has been catastrophic to Sydney's small businesses, loss of jobs, tourism, the music industry and the loss of night life for people who used to enjoy a night of fun in the inner city.

Enough damage has already been done. The laws should be reversed before it is too late .Follow the model that Melbourne has created before you loose the tourist trade. If you change the law now this might encourage small business to reopen again.

Please REOPEN SYDNEY again before it is too late.