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Lock out laws

NS

Natasha Stuart 

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To: Liquor Law Review; 

3:17 PM

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Action Items



Hi there,

I've been a professional singer in Sydney for the last 20 years. I have never struggled to find work in Sydney - that is, until the lockout laws were introduced. I'm fortunate in that I tour with major artists like Tina Arena, Richard Clapton and the like so I'm able to sustain my income as I've worked this year more out of town than I have in Sydney - but that is just crazy. Sydney used to be a vibrant city with incredible nightlife. Venues quite often had two shifts with bands playing 8-11 and then 12-3am. Not now. Sydney's arts are dying. Sydney's heart is dying. Peoples venues, careers, passions and creativity are being killed off because of a couple of attacks that happened *outside* of venues before midnight.

I would love to see the actual cause of the issue of violence to be addressed rather than shutting down good people's businesses and other good people's right to go out and enjoy themselves. The violence didn't happen inside, it happened on the street. Where are the programs for young male mental health? Where is the crack down on steroid abuse (which I'm led to believe is NSW's most widely used recreational drug?) or on cocaine and ice/meth? *These* are the most serious issues and where we're actually going to see a change. Young male discontent, anger and disillusionment is where the violence is coming from.. not restaurants, bars, pubs or clubs that are providing a safe and fun place for people to be happy and enjoy themselves!! It's absolutely crazy in my opinion.

The fact that you can no longer order a Johnny Walker Blue Label "neat" is absolutely bananas! What is the point of spending your hard earned money on a seriously amazing whisky that you now need to have mixed with water or coke? The laws have gone way too far and are way out of hand. Now when I see police walk into a venue I'm singing at, my first thought is "are they going to shut the bar down?" Second thought is "are they going to make the band stop playing?"

I no longer feel protected when I see police, I feel threatened. I feel like we're going to be punished for being out and having a couple of drinks - or god forbid, having fun.

I loved this city. Seeing what's become of it over the last year or two is absolutely breaking my heart. Tourists ask me what's happened to the city and then they make plans to go straight to

Melbourne - where I've been lucky enough to spend a lot of time this year. That is a thriving city with a wonderful nightlife. How is it that the best city in the world, Sydney, has become a shell of its former self?! I cannot believe the powers that be have allowed this to happen just to get the revenue from the casinos and poker machines.

Sincerely,

A very sad Sydney Sider.

Natasha Stuart

[Redacted signature block]