

Submission to the review of alcohol

Katie Stucken [REDACTED]

Fri 25/03/2016 2:08 PM

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

In my 10 years as a Paramedic I have witnessed my share of alcohol fuelled violence. Ranging from minor cuts and bruises, to major arterial bleeds post glassings or a closed head injuries, it is never pleasant. With 6 of those years as an Intensive Care Paramedic, I have been exposed to the more critical and life threatening cases and there is no describing the tragedy of a completely preventable loss of life. The cries of parents and family who arrive at the hospital to find their son or daughter ventilated in a coma post an assault are sounds that you never forget. There is no doubt that these alcohol related laws have made a difference to reducing the instance of such cases. These laws don't stop people from having a good time. They stop those who cannot set their own limits from damaging someone else's life. The "lock-out laws" and "3am closures" very simply and effectively help to reduce these cases. We, the Paramedics who work the road, who see these patients day to day and year after year, can verify that there is a reduction.

A significant number of assaults on Paramedic's are perpetrated by heavily intoxicated people or those under the influence of illicit drugs. I myself, have been verbally assaulted many times in my career, and physically assaulted twice while genuinely trying to help someone who has called me to do exactly that. It is one thing for this to come from a patient suffering an acute mental health emergency, it is completely another for it to be a patient who has simply had too much Vodka. Just like you, I'm someone's sister and daughter, I go to work to help people, not to get hit.

So if you haven't heard the cry of a mother who's lost her son, or tried in vain to stop life threatening bleeding just long enough to get your patient to surgery....that's good thing. But if you can do anything from where you sit to keep these laws I implore you to act. Anything that can help us to reduce alcohol fuelled violence has my complete support.

Regards,

Katie Stucken

Paramedic