

How the Liquor and Lock Out Laws Effected Me

Chrissy Symeonakis [REDACTED]

Wed 30/03/2016 2:05 PM

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

Hello,

My name is Chrissy Symeonakis. I know that the reviews are currently in place and that submissions are still being taken. Please consider this my submission.

I'll keep it short as I'm sure you've plenty of information to wage through and really it's just the facts you need to make your findings.

I am a resident of Elizabeth Bay and have been for 4 years now, probably not for much longer though as rent prices are skyrocketing in the area and I moved to the 2011 area as at that time my full time employment and office were based in Kings Cross. The venue I worked at Goldfish Kings Cross/ Iris Hotel Group is no longer in operation and while I was offered employment elsewhere having to commute and travel and also have my role changed was not optimum as I am visually impaired and have Multiple Sclerosis. I since then had to start my own small business to support myself.

I'll likely be relocating with my husband in January when our lease is up to Melbourne. Given the industry I work in (Marketing and Digital Marketing PR for the Hospitality and Entertainment Industry) there are either not enough venues here to utilise my services, or they don't have the money to spend based on how the changes have effected them. I have had to expand my client and business base to Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne where their industries are thriving and that's where I have to travel to be able to support myself.

Largely most of my friends, previous employees and suppliers have all been effected by the lock out laws. Either having to move interstate (there are many of them who've moved to Melbourne) or have had to go back to study to look at changing the industry they once worked in.

80% of my business and clients are interstate.

As someone that lives in the 2011 precinct the effects have made the area less appealing to me to live in and also many others. Not having a nighttime economy has effected everyone.

International DJ's and acts also aren't visiting or touring Australia as often anymore. The venues/ promoters cannot afford the fees as they have less trading hours to collect the door takings to offset the fees.

I'm also upset that when the changes come into place, for us to work in Kings Cross, we had to pay out of our own pocket an additional cost of over \$100 for Kings Cross RSA Certification (like we had to pay more money for the right to work it that area ??) - which as I'm to understand that has since been revoked back to a normal one, and also had to pay again money from our own pockets for Privacy Principles certification to operate the ID scanners too. Money out of our own pockets which is in my opinion un just and unfair on people who are employees trying to make a living.

Sydney and the Kings Cross precinct has fast become a very sad state of affairs. All business owners have suffered, the city is no where near as inviting to guests or traveller's anymore, prices are high but for what? There is no night time activity of opportunities for people to engage, interact and socialise.

Why an entire population had their entire rights revoked for those that couldn't do the right thing is very unfair and is unjust.

If you require any further information at all, please let me know.

I was involved and working in Kings Cross for numerous years pre lock out, post and have seen how things have changed and effected the Entertainment and Hospitality Industry first hand as a manager, patron, resident and also a business owner.

3/30/2016

How the Liquor and Lock Out Laws Effected Me - Liquor Law Review

Goodluck and may the right thing be done.

Chrissy Symeonakis