

I have lived in an apartment that faces Darlinghurst Rd around the centre of 'The Strip' for the past 8 years. Previous to the introduction of the Lock Out Laws, in 2014, revelers and clubs (that often overlooked restrictions on noise levels) created a cacophony of noise on a Friday and Saturday night. The sheer volume of people in the relatively small area of Darlinghurst Rd, Bayswater Rd and Victoria St was incredible to witness.

Most people were inebriated and on their way between clubs and hotels and there was an incredible energy to the place that was exciting but also fragile and dangerous at times. It felt like this energy could easily turn bad and that a wrong step or word from someone could unleash anger and violence. I believe it was the density of the alcohol and drug infused environment that led to a kind of saturation point, a point at which the Cross became a place where people felt they could come and do whatever they wanted to, a place where anything goes, where extreme drunkenness, gross behavior (I'm taking all bodily fluids) and sometimes also violence was part of this terrain.

I believe it is the larger venues and the number of them located in proximity that led to the years of excess in Kings Cross. I am led to believe that before the loosening of the liquor laws in the area in 2007, The Cross was a relatively calmer place.

Since the lock out, The Cross is a much quieter place. At night, the sheer volume of people has decreased and there is not the same sense of potential violence present. I also hear that St Vincent's Hospital Emergency is dealing with a lot less alcohol related injuries which is great for our health system and much better for the people working there.

I know that there are **several** measures that were introduced to lessen alcohol related violence in the area and I'm not sure which ones have been most effective.

I'm not sure that they **are** all effective and which ones are most efficacious in terms of lessening violence but also allowing people to enjoy themselves and allowing safe businesses to thrive. Research needs to be done and I'm sure there are international studies and examples that could enlighten us here.