

Lock out laws - should be extended

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John Tsioulos [REDACTED]

To: Liquor Law Review; [REDACTED]



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My name is John Tsioulos and I have been working with young people in my capacity as a Youth & Community Worker for the past 21 years in various positions and organisations throughout Greater Sydney. My understanding of the impact of alcohol and violence comes from my direct dealings with young people through my job.

I have seen the devastating impact that violence can have on people's lives as well as how being intoxicated can multiply the damage caused for both perpetrators as well as victims.

Intoxication can also lead to many people, particularly young people, making ill judged decisions in the heat of the moment. These decisions can have lasting effects on their lives and the lives of others. I have had clients who have been robbed, assaulted (including being sexually assaulted), severely injured or been charged with drink driving as a result of their or others intoxication.

The culture of mass intoxication needs to stop.

And laws need to be put in place to protect the most vulnerable. Laws should not be there to help well to do publicans make even more money. They are a part of the problem as I believe many have put profit before the good of the community. The debate about alchopops and preloading drinking a few years ago is testament to that.

Is it unfair for the people who do the right thing and drink in moderation? Possibly. But laws should protect the most vulnerable. It is a small price to pay for the safety and well being of all of our community. And people will eventually simply learn to socialise in different ways that don't encores get culture of mass intoxication.

As for business owners losing out on revenue, it is unfortunate that some of them will lose out. But commercial circumstances change all the time. When tanning beds were banned due to the danger associated with them, we didn't not go through with legal changes simply because some people would be financially impacted. We changed the law to protect the most

vulnerable people.

Business will simply need to adapt to the changing circumstances they find themselves in,. Just like any business that has had to deal with change. The smart businesses will survive using a new model. One that doesn't take advantage of people's recklessness in order to make a profit.

Lastly I think laws should be shaped by the experts in the relevant fields they are concerned with.

In this case it is the police and hospital workers who's experience, data and expertise should play the greatest importance in determining what policy is best for all in our community.

Many of the complaints about lock out laws come from a personal perspective of how the laws have personally affected the individual, instead of taking a wholistic view of the situation. I believe we should be looking at the wider view and that this view is best informed by what hospital staff and police have to say.

It is my personal belief that the lock out laws need to be extended to the whole of NSW as I have seen the devastating impact that alcohol intoxication has had on young people in many parts of the state. Not just in the inner city. VThe culture of alcohol being used inappropriately goes well beyond the inner city. And well beyond violence. It impacts on many aspects of people's lives.

I do not believe that the lock out laws are a magic bullet, many resources need to be put in place to change our culture around alcohol.

But the lock out laws send out a firm message that the community will no longer tolerate excessive alcohol consumption and the effects it has on all of us. Whether it be direct effects on ourselves, our children, our parents or our friends.

I encourage this review committee to look at the data that clearly shows a decrease in serious assaults and deaths as a result of the lock out laws.

Thank you.

John Tsioulos

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