

Tuesday, 15 March 2016

**Liquor Law Review - undertaken by Hon. Ian Callinan AC QC  
Formal Submission by Laraine Turner  
Mother of 4, Grandmother of 10, concerned member of the general public.**

It was with great interest that I saw the calling for formal submissions in regards to the Liquor Law Review. As a concerned parent and grandparent I wish to have my opinion noted for the record.

I am in full favour of the 1.30am lockout laws, 3am cease of alcohol sales and the 10pm take away liquor sales restrictions that are currently in place and now under review. In my opinion, these laws should apply to the entire state, not just selected areas where alcohol related violence has been documented.

I am sure that any person who reads the statistics from NSW police re: Sydney CBD Entertainment precinct alcohol related non-domestic assaults and Kings Cross precinct alcohol related non-domestic assaults, will realise that numbers of assaults have fallen markedly which equates to NSW Police being able to attend other incidents which require their attendance and expertise. The most important document, in my opinion, to support the current 'lock out laws' has to be by Professor Gordian Fulde. Medical Journal of Australia Vol 203(9). Fulde GO, Smith M & Foster SL 2015. 'Presentations with alcohol related serious injury to a major Sydney Trauma Hospital after 2014 changes to Liquor Laws'.

These 3 documents alone should cement the lock out laws in place, permanently. My own opinion is this - all laws, no matter what they are, are put in place to stop what I call "the lowest denominator". The lowest denominator is the person who bashes their children - the law to stop them offending is - you can't hit your children. The lowest denominator is the person who speeds on our roads, past schools and thereby putting innocent peoples lives at risk - the law to stop them offending is - large fines, loss of licence, speed cameras, police presence, 40km zones outside schools. The list of laws to stop the lowest denominator is long, varied and necessary and in my opinion absolutely necessary.

The lowest denominator in the change of laws pertaining to the Liquor Law Review - the people who go out for the night, effected by alcohol and/or drugs to wreak havoc on an unsuspecting member/s of the public. The person who considers a great night out includes getting totally intoxicated/high, bashing someone and inflicting a coward punch. Well, I am afraid I do not agree with their actions or mentality. Therefore these lock out laws were put in place to curb this violent behaviour. Obviously the majority of our population just want to go out for the night and have a great time - businesses want to make a profit by offering their services to people going out for a great night - I get all that. BUT - the way I see it is - the lowest denominator has come into the equation, laws were put in place to curb their behaviour and the result of this? Everyone is penalised by the laws pertaining to the 'lowest denominators' behaviours = the current laws in place. So be it. If that is what it takes for people to go out and have a great night in safety and not fear some random attack, then keep the current laws and extend them state wide.

Well, that is my opinion, for what it is worth. I would like to close with

a statement from Jack Gibson - legendary football coach - 'nothing good happens after midnight'. Watching the news every night, how could anyone not agree with that.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my opinion heard.

Yours sincerely

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