

Submission to the liquor law review

JW

Jenny Waern [REDACTED]



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To whom it may concern

I am writing to state my opposition to the changes in liquor laws including the lockout laws.

I am a 37 year old woman with a 1 year old baby boy, living in the beautiful suburb of Wollstonecraft. My current lifestyle means that the lockout laws generally have zero impact on my personal life--seldom am I even awake after midnight, let alone out in a bar. But importantly, I believe with all my heart that I should be allowed to if the urge strikes and I absolutely believe that the younger generations should be able to make their own choices about what they do, whether they are bad choices or good, and that they should have a vibrant and exciting city brimming with possibilities to make those choices in.

Of course the violence that occurs is deplorable, but destroying a whole segment of Sydney's nightlife is not the way to address it. It would be very easy as a 38 year old mother to say "Oh well, it's for the best, nothing good happens after 1.30 am anyway, it's better for them to be tucked up in bed, they'll thank us for it down the track, much more civilised ways to spend an evening, the theatre, a lovely dinner with friends, a few quiet drinks rather than dancing in a sweaty club until 4 am, where you can't hear the person you're talking to etc etc," very easy and very convenient because that suits my life right now. But that does not make it right. The right thing is to value everyone's choices equally, whether they are appealing to me or to the doctors and politicians championing them. The right thing is to give equal measure to that sweaty nightclub as to an evening at the Opera House or the local suburban pub or the casino.

To me this is about freedom and valuing all the sectors and sub-cultures that make up this beautiful city equally. But also important are the countless people who have lost their jobs and the many fantastic businesses that have gone out of business due to these changes. This is simply heartbreaking, not only for those individuals but for us as a world-class city who is losing their talent and passion. We hear a lot about the brain drain that goes on in research and technology, where talented Australians are forced to go overseas to access funding and opportunities not available here. What a terrible loss if our amazing chefs, bartenders, DJs and musicians have to take their talents elsewhere.

We will all be poorer for these changes in the long term.

Please consider overturning the changes in liquor laws in favour of other possible solutions including investing in more and more effective policing, safe spaces, and better transport.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Kind regards
Jenny Waern

