

Sydney Lockouts

JW James Waldron 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Mon 8:35 PM

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Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to you to let you know a little story about my own experiences with the lockout. I am someone who has never encountered any violence in Sydney and now at the age of 30 have been going out into Sydney's nightlife over most of that time. I have never really been a fan of drinking so that has never been an issue for me. However being locked out of venues means that not only are people not able to come in after 1.30 it means that people decide not to go out in the first place. My alcohol drinking friends would also prefer to stay in and get drunk which means they end up consuming more alcohol because it's not controlled or regulated in the household and when they do seek fun they have to now attend illegal warehouse parties as they won't be able to get in if they leave the house after 1am.

The other problem is that if you do go out to a lockout venue at 1.30am if the crowd isn't at a level that is having fun, no one else is able to come in and improve the party vibe so people leave until its doors shut at 3 because they just can't stay open until 5 to pay bartenders for no income. As a dancer, dj and music producer its become incredibly hard for me to enjoy a good night out and harder and harder to find venues to play in. Alcohol and violence was never and issue in the clubs I frequented, and now that the laws have done their damage I have given up on Sydney and moved to London. I also have a professional career, which was picked up well here and am able to dj at many more venues in an environment that supports creativity, theatre and entertainment rather than just gambling.

Ever time I hear about Sydney, I'm embarrassed to tell people where I am from as it is a city that has lost touch. It no longer has an edge, it no longer has a work life balance, it is now part of a big nanny state not worth living in. I miss the weather, the outdoors and my friends, but Sydney is just too boring to call home any more.

With regards
an Ex Proud Sydney Sider, born and bred.
James Waldron