

Brian Walker-Catchpole
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Liquor Law Review Submission – 4/4/2016

Dear Mr Callinan - I'll keep this short and sweet.

My name is Brian Walker-Catchpole, I'm a long term resident of Sydney (Newtown, outside of the lockout zone to be precise) and I'm writing to lodge my objection to the lockout laws.

I'm guessing that many submissions will outline the significant evidence against the efficacy of these laws, the faulty premise that lays at the heart of their instigation the economic havoc they have wreaked and their broadly damaging nature. I don't intend to reiterate those arguments.

Rather, I'd like to explain their impact in more immediate, anecdotal terms, specifically, as they relate to my family: my gay, lesbian and queer family. My *logical* family.

My family loves to dance.

When we come together and we celebrate, we listen to amplified music and we dance. We come together as often as we can. We come to together to love and support each other. We come together to resist the discrimination and the malice that even today in 2016 is still wielded against us by lobbyists, and parts of the government and other people with a vested interest in keeping queer people less than their straight counterparts.

The lock out laws have disproportionately targeted the places where my queer family dance, and in so doing we have lost a number of important places for us to come together in love and support. These laws are hurting my community. My friends are struggling for work, for gigs and for the opportunities we used to take for granted.

My friends are struggling to come together the way that we used to, and we *really* need to come together in the current political climate. The orchestrated attack on the safe schools program by conservative politicians is just the latest in a string of programmatic moves designed to hurt gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer people for political gain.

The lock out laws are taking these spaces away from us, and limiting our access to those few that remain. I'm sure that this is an unintended consequence of the laws, but it is a real, urgent and grievous one. Freedom of assembly and freedom to dance see so obvious a right, and yet these laws fundamentally restrict when and where we can come together. My queer family does not have the same options as the broader community, and when restrictions like these are enacted, we feel these cuts more keenly.

My Callinan, I'm sure that you will give a balanced and even consideration of the evidence for and against the lockouts, but I thought it important to express the frustrations and sadness that I and my friends have felt as we've seen our world diminished by these laws. Please consider these social costs, as well as the economic and the public health arguments mounted for and against these laws.

My family deserves to dance in love, support and celebration as much as any other.

Best regards,

Brian Walker-Catchpole

