



# How the Lockout has affected me

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To: Liquor Law Review; ▾

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Simon, I'm a 29 year old, living in the inner suburbs of Sydney, working as a part-time cleaner at a small bar in the CBD (lockout zone) whilst undertaking post-graduate studies at uni.

Superficially the lockout laws seem like a minor inconvenience to a small section of the population in order to make the city safer at night. However, in an attempt to make the city safer, I believe these laws have paradoxically created the opposite effect. Lower numbers of people are going out, so the streets are empty - creating a climate of fear and unease. Streets sparsely populated by locked out stragglers late at night feel considerably more dangerous than streets that are occupied by groups of people out generally having a good time.

Economically the lockout has had very negative affects. I know dozens of venues that have closed and likewise people who have lost their jobs. A more common scenario (as is my own) is that the business coming into the bars / venues / nightclubs has nearly halved. Previously healthy profit margins are now razor thin, so in my case it means reduced hours and reduced income. Now around 75% of my income goes towards my rent and what little is left over doesn't cover my bills and expenses.

I believe better transport to and from the city late at night on weekends, improved policing in problem areas and education programs addressing the culture of alcohol abuse and violence are better solutions to the problems that initiated the lockout.

just my two cents

cheers  
Simon