

Submission to the review of alcohol

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To: Liquor Law Review <liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au>;

I am a police officer of eleven years and have personally seen what alcohol violence does to victims, their families and offenders lives. I have worked at Albury, which had a 1:30am lockout. It not only reduced assaults, but where assaults occurred it increased the chances of apprehending an offender/s. Prior to the lockout, there were more assaults whilst people were moving between venues. Offenders would leave the scene prior to police arrival, witnesses were unable to give give accurate accounts of events due to their own level of intoxication, and there was no public CCTV. All of that reduced the chances of apprehending offenders, and obtaining a successful conviction at court. Of course there will still be assaults at licensed venues, however with security guards present and CCTV in the venues the likely hood of apprehending offenders and successfully prosecuting them increases.

Lockouts do not prevent people from going out and having a good time. People just need to plan their night by being in their preferred venue by the time the lockout is enforced.

Some people will argue that high visible police patrols is more effective than a lockout. In the past I have performed beat patrols in the Main Street of Albury, and where it is difficult to measure the effectiveness of those patrols I can tell you that serious assault do occur even if police are across the road from the incident.

NSW Government please listen to the emergency workers who have to deal with alcohol violence on a daily basis & not the collective individuals who believe that their night is ruined by having a lockout.

Regards,

Dale Willis

Police Officer