

Submission re Personal impact of NSW Liquor Laws

Toby Wilson [REDACTED]

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

Hi,

I began working in the hospitality industry in 1997, around the time “Responsible Service of Alcohol” was coming into play in NSW. Over the following 15 years I built a strong career as a professional hospitality manager working in bars and hotels around Sydney. I greatly enjoyed serving the public through my roles and seeing people have a great time in the venues I operated.

I was licensee of a venue deemed to be too violent under the flawed “Top 50 most violent venues” lockout system introduced under premier Nathan Reece in 2008. After lengthy analysis, many of the incidents linked to our venue were proven to have occurred outside the venue involving members of the public who had not been inside our venue and in some cases had no intention of coming inside our venue. Subsequently the lockout imposed on that venue was lifted, however the damage had been done. Trade took a significant hit due to the lock out and did not recover. Jobs were lost. My motivation and passion for the industry also suffered and I left the industry in 2011.

These laws punish the majority for the hideous actions of the minority. The offenders are the only people who should be punished. I recommend a “Drinking License” system, which would work the same way as a driver’s license. Anyone who does the wrong thing has their license suspended or cancelled. Licenses could be scanned on entry to licensed venues to discourage misbehaviour and identify offenders when necessary. Put the responsibility on the individual – not everyone around them.

Kind Regards

Toby Wilson
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