



Keep the lock out laws

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To: Liquor Law Review;

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Inbox

I am writing as a resident of [REDACTED] who frequently uses Kings Cross train station and goes out to various restaurants and bars in Potts Point and Darlinghurst.

I have two school age children and and I am part of the growing population of 40-somethings who have lived in the area since their 20s and won't leave. I plan to live here through all the stages of my life until I die.

I read in the paper yesterday that:

"In the two years prior to the introduction of these [...] measures, there were 145 people managed for severe facial injuries requiring surgery [...] in the two years after the measures there have only been 58."

I know some people think me a party pooper but this is all the evidence I need that we are better off than we were. I lived in the Cross in the 1990s when extended bar hours were being trialled, then renewed indefinitely. The more venues served alcohol 23/7, with a token hour's closure, the more aggression I witnessed in the streets.

I then lived in a house that backed into the footbridge over New South Head Road for 10 years, a convenient thoroughfare in and out of the Cross for late night revellers. Every Friday and Saturday night there was a violent altercation outside our back wall. I lost count of how often we called the cops. There was only one weekend night of the year when things were strangely peaceful, Good Friday.

When the lock out laws came in, it was like night and day. Like Good Friday in fact. No more fights at the bottom of the foot bridge. It was gob smacking and very welcome. For me, no 'night time economy' or convenience is worth having several jaws a week wired on the tax payer's pay check. Not to mention the rare but devastating death of someone who was at the wrong place at the wrong time.

There must be some other way we can make ourselves feel like an international city?

Last but not least, if the powers that be want late night alcohol trading, it should be located within spitting distance of major transport hubs such as Central, Town Hall, Parramatta, Chatswood train stations. Kings Cross is not that hub and the drunks are not missed by the resident tax payers. Many of the shops being vacated as a result of the laws are filling up nicely with perfectly good cafes, restaurants and other retail outlets. Bring it on!

Regards,
Maggie Wojciechowska

[REDACTED]

Sent from my phone