

Submission re Liquor Laws

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Wed 30/03/2016 2:09 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

I was born and raised in Sydney's inner west and have lived here all my life. I have seen different areas of the inner city and urban landscapes change rapidly and gentrify over time. Firstly I would like to say compared to other cultures, and I say cultures not cities, Australia has a binge drinking problem. However this does not extent to all Australians. That said, I don't think structural changes at the government level in the form of strict liquor laws are going to address the root of that problem. The root of the problem is cultural, it needs to be addressed through education and promotion of good drinking habits targeted at those who are binge drinking. The root of this problem can be better understood through research! Identify the demographic who are binge drinking, understand why and address the problem sustainably. Liquor laws are only a band aid solution to a deeper rooted culture of binge drinking.

Secondly, I also understand that these laws are backed by corporate interests in the redevelopment of areas such as Kings Cross. You only have to dig beneath the surface to know this. Sydney is a geographically beautiful city, with much potential. Do we want it to be a boring city full of retail spaces (that will eventually shut down because everything is moving online) and apartments that are too expensive for locals to rent? I don't. I want it to be a city that supports diversity, that is affordable to live in, that nurtures the arts and DIY spaces, and where residents and tourists have the freedom to go out, have fun, and feel safe without oppressive laws dictating their movements.

This is a band aid solution to a wider cultural and societal problem. How about looking into this properly, and addressing it sustainably rather than temporarily?

Kind regards,
Ary Yashadhana
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