

For the lock out.

[REDACTED]
Thu 17/03/2016 11:39 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

This email services to support the current lock out laws in Kings Cross.

I am a local resident and a doctor that has worked in [REDACTED] hospital (including the emergency department) prior to and after the lock out laws.

Prior to the lock out laws Kings Cross was a drunken, violent monoculture on Friday and Saturday nights - which is very different to how it is the rest of the week. To picture this mono-culture imagine predominantly teenagers and people in there early twenties, wearing very high skirts, or tight muscle bound shirts, drinking pineapple breezers or red bulls and vodka - before yelling, pissing, fighting and vomiting on the streets. It was not an eclectic and inclusive area, that welcomed young and old, from various aspects of life. Compared to international cities in Europe and the USA (which I understand have similar or more restrictive lock out laws) it was an embarrassment. Which is even more of a shame considering it is a central tourist district.

Yes it's true that it is now quieter, like a garden that has been weeded after decades of infestation with lantana -but it will in time evolve into something more vibrant, interesting, inclusive, and safe - without the antisocial and dangerous element - particularly if there is some assurance that it won't go back to the culture it was before. The fact that apartments are now being built were the Gold Fish Bowl Bar was suggests that it will continue into a vibrant community, that won't trash the joint. It needs more time and to be protected from the interests of the alcohol industry.

I worked as a psychiatry registrar prior to and after the lock out laws - and I can tell you from first hand experience that the Emergency Department at [REDACTED] Hospital was filled with less injured, loud, obnoxious, and violent people after the lock out laws - which is good for the community, other patients that had to listen to the shouting or witness the assaults or take downs, and staff who would regularly get assaulted. (The assault rates against mental health staff are too high).

People can still drink up until 3am (in a bar) - I don't think it is a particular impingement on their civil liberties.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Psychiatrist