

**Submission  
No 62**

## **MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG- RELATED VIOLENCE**

**Name:** Mr Isaac Roberts

**Date Received:** 15/08/2014

Isaac Roberts  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

15 August 2014

The Committee Manager  
Committee on Law and Safety  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir or Madam

INQUIRY INTO MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG RELATED VIOLENCE

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. I would like to make the following points with respect to the lockdown:

1. Although alcohol related violence appears to have been reduced, this should be considered with reference to the reduction in patronage of city bars and clubs:
  - a. of course you would expect a xx% decrease in violence if you get xx% reduction in patronage;
  - b. if this is considered a good thing regardless, the logical conclusion should be that you could get a 100% decrease in violence by simply closing all city bars and clubs (this is ridiculous);
2. Anecdotal evidence suggests that partygoers have simply relocated:
  - a. to illegal warehouse parties, the casino (apparently this is packed after 1:30), and to other suburbs
  - b. diversion of business to illegal enterprises is dangerous and bad public policy;
  - c. diversion of business to the casino smacks of corporate welfare and government beholden to big business;
  - d. diversion of business to other suburbs simply moves the violence there, where it may be less well managed due to less developed local infrastructure (taxi ranks, police presence, proximity to emergency services etc)
3. The lockdown has been implemented in conjunction with other measures including linked ID scanners:
  - a. this makes it difficult to separate the effect of the lockdown from the effect of having the ID scanners, but this exercise should be attempted regardless;
  - b. ID scanners, in targeting the minority who do the bad thing, are much preferred to a blanket lockdown where the majority suffer, and should be very effective in deterring repeat offenders
4. Tourism is/will be adversely affected:
  - a. one of Sydney's best attractions has previously been a diverse and vibrant nightlife;
  - b. in my view the lockdown has killed this;
  - c. if I'm asked, I'll tell my international friends to spend less time in Sydney and more time in Melbourne, and my interstate friends to avoid completely
  - d. This has flow on effects for other businesses – accommodation, restaurants, tour operators

I would be pleased to elaborate on any of these points if required, please feel free to contact me.

Regards

Isaac Roberts