

**Submission
No 10**

MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE

Name: Name Suppressed

Date Received: 5/08/2014

Partially Confidential

Dear Alex,

I would appreciate if you could please explain the process which allowed the NSW Government to impose restrictions on the sale of alcohol and entry to venues on specific areas of Sydney and more recently, the whole of NSW?

I am a resident of Woolloomooloo, a few streets from the heart of Kings Cross. Previous to this I lived on Bayswater Road, Rushcutters Bay for a number of years. I am therefore aware of the noise, activity and often undesirable behaviour that occurs in these areas on the weekends and special events such as public holidays and Mardi Gras.

In no way do I mean to dismiss the tragedies involving young people which have occurred in the area over the last few years. I do however, object to being told by the NSW Government when and when I cannot purchase alcohol. I am particularly angered at the 10pm curfew on purchasing take away alcohol from bottle shops etc. In a city which is attempting to promote its night time economy and emulate a casual drinking culture seen in European cities, it seems bizarre that this bizarre restriction applies. Other legal measures exist to stop anti-social drinking on the streets including 'no alcohol zones', restrictions on not selling alcohol to intoxicated people and the role of police to enforce these restrictions.

I am aware from those employed in the night time economy that a number of businesses are suffering from the change in laws which are penalising reasonable and law abiding venues and customers. It seems ridiculous that the whole state is subject to a curfew, due to the behaviour of a small minority, that has been whipped up by the media. It appears that the Government sees imposition of the laws as an 'easy win' in relation to an electorate who often are not affected by late night activity anyway.

All this however, is of course not an issue if I wanted to go to a casino, where I can drink as long as I like. It seems absurd that we constantly hear of Australians having gambling problems, that the only available option to drink outside of the curfew hours is at a casino. In addition, when the Barangaroo casino is completed the high rollers will be able to drink and smoke for as long as they want- in contrast to national and state wide laws on smoking in a workplace and service of alcohol. A case of 'one rule for them and another for us'.

It is a shame that the NSW Government doesn't think that the population is capable of managing their own lives that juvenile type laws are enforced upon us.

I would appreciate if you could provide your views on the matter and advise under what provisions the NSW Government is able to impose these restrictions without a debate or even input from their electorate.

Regards

