

**Submission  
No 47**

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

**Name:** Name Suppressed  
**Date Received:** 14/08/2014

*Partially Confidential*

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been working in the hospitality industry, largely within the entertainment precinct area, for over the last 10 years. In this time I have witnessed first hand antisocial and aggressive behaviour due to alcohol and drug related intoxication. Bearing this in mind, I think I can, as a private citizen of this city, give an honest perspective for the inquiry.

I would like to start by saying that I think it is a great thing to be bringing to the attention of the public the problems related with alcohol and drug fuelled violence. There is definitely a problem at hand within society, that is an undeniable fact. Where I think there have been some missteps by the government lies in the black and white nature that this has been dealt with. The problem goes deeper than a mere 2km area of the city. If there is truly ever going to be any change, make the laws cover the entire state of NSW.

People haven't stopped going out after 3am, they are just going to other places. They haven't stopped ordering shots after midnight, they are just doing it in other places. This relates to the other restrictions that surround the drinks.

The behaviours and actions of people have not changed. They have changed within the entertainment precinct, which, if that was the goal of the initial measures, then fantastic, but it has come at a cost towards local businesses and venues. Their rents have not been lowered as a result of the new laws, and whilst it is all well and good to say they should change and adopt new business policies, these take time.

Added to this, the laws apply to the heart of the city. Sydney is a global city, and it is embarrassing that a foreign visitor could not get a late night drink if they wanted to. By all means, I don't think much good happens after 3am, but leaving people on the street at 130am is just not a great idea. I have seen first hand, girls running blatantly through oncoming traffic to 'make it in before lockout'. Yes, this is their responsibility, not that of the government, but it is just another added issue.

I think the laws either need to be enforced statewide, and venue wide (I'm looking at the casino), or to be seriously reconsidered.

I applaud the fact that there has been a drop of admissions into St Vincent's emergency, but there are also less people going out in this area, and they are going elsewhere. Please consider discussing with the Education minister for a more effective way to teach about alcohol and drug consumption in schools. Yes, it will be controversial, but the youth drink and take drugs. It is by and large a fact of life.

The key to solving these issues lies with education, and being involved in the community, not by shutting it off.

Please use this committee to consider if this is the correct path to go down.

Sincerely,

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