

**Submission
No 20**

MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE

Name: Name Suppressed
Date Received: 11/08/2014

Partially Confidential

The following is a submission from resident in an apartment block living in Kings Cross in regard to the Measures to Reduce Alcohol and Drug Related Violence (Inquiry).

There is not a section for residents to state their viewpoint which is unfortunate as we are the ones who have borne the full force of the past 8 years of drunken violence, murders in this area.

I have been a resident of Kings Cross for over 10 years.

After the changes announced in January 2014 by Premier O'Farrell and implemented in February the "Newcastle" solution 1.30 lockouts and no drinks served after 3am in all pubs, clubs in the area, the residents in this building and my friends in the area noticed an immediate change in the area.

It has been an amazing success, far more than I could have hoped for.

For almost 8 years we have had to put up with drunks screaming under our windows, urinating in our doorways, broken bottles willfully smashed against walls, the non stop screaming of young drunken women until 5am in the morning under our bedroom windows. The roving packs of drunken women and me screaming abuse at each, pedestrians etc. The disrespect shown to my neighbourhood is almost beyond description. The amount of rubbish, broken bottles discarded onto the footpaths and streets by the 30,000 drunks up here every weekend. The sense of danger that was there. I stopped walking home within my neighbourhood during the weekend because of the sense of danger.

To catch the train up from the city was an unpleasant experience full of people drunk or half drunk, you never knew would they "turn" on you.

The huge crowds roaming around the streets, drunk and out of control. You could not get off the bus due to vast volumes of drunks on the footpath and street. The buses had to be diverted.

The AHA during the 8 years pushed this area as an entertainment area to the detriment of the people living here, the most densely populated area in Australia. We had 30,000 drunks up here every weekend. The pubs and clubs did nothing about Responsible Service of Alcohol to curb the alcohol related violence. Their only motive appeared to be to make more money. Nothing was ever contributed to the neighbourhood.

In the past months St Vincents Hospital has reported a reduction estimated to be around 50% of alcohol related injuries. This is a massive figure in terms of cost to the public health system, less stress on police and emergency workers.

In the past 5 months there has been noticeable differences in many business and their mode of operation. The streets no longer have mostly pubs, clubs and bars with scattered fast food stores and convenience stores. Cafes and restaurants are opening up as patrons do not have to put up with the alcohol related violence and out of control crowds. I am sure in time there will be even more diversity within the area.

From the above I do not believe the business owners (relating to alcohol and fast food) in this area can self regulate themselves, they have not done so in the past as a consequence residents do not have confidence they will in the future. At the same time other businesses are growing and providing employment and contributing to the neighbourhood.

The residents of NSW were promised by this government to give the "Newcastle Solution" in the CBD and Kings Cross a 2 year trial. This government must for the sake of the residents of NSW not give in to the AHA demands to "water down" this legislated reform in any way during the period of the 2 year trial.

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