

**Submission
No 17**

MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG- RELATED VIOLENCE

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Submissions have been called for the Measures to Reduce Alcohol and Drug-Related Violence (Inquiry) being conducted by the Law and Safety Committee chaired by Minister George Souris.

The following is my submission:

The changes announced in January by Premier O'Farrell and implemented from 24 February 2014, the 'Newcastle-style' reforms of 1.30am lockouts in pubs, clubs, taverns, etc and 3am closing and associated measures, have been effective.

The changes should be introduced state wide.

The evidence relating to emergency admissions from St Vincents Hospital has shown a clear reduction in the number and severity of alcohol related harms (estimated to up to 50%.)

The broader crime figures for alcohol related assaults can only be released by BOCSAR after a longer time period of about 2 years.

Studies need to be undertaken to assess any displacement or dispersal to adjacent boundaries. (Reported as Chippendale, the exempt Casino precinct, Double Bay and Coogee.)

I am concerned about the Terms of the Review: (1) Terms are restricted only to hearing about the impact on "industry" and are not "consistent with the expectations, needs and aspirations of the community"; (ii) The review is narrowly focussed on "violence" only not on the chronic alcohol related harms that include unintended injuries.

I call for equal rights for local communities to a safe neighbourhood free from alcohol related violence and for communities to be informed and have a fair say in all liquor and gambling decisions inflicted on them.