

**Submission
No 22**

MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE

Name: Name Suppressed

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Partially Confidential

As a young person residing in Sydney, I have experienced first hand the impact of the measures put in place to reduce drug and alcohol fuelled violence. Many measures undertaken have been positive- I fully support the 48 hour temporary ban measure for individuals causing trouble. However I feel it is important to draw your attention to many of the problematic outcomes of this legislation, which have in many ways made me, as a young girl, feel less safe in the CBD environment.

1.30am lockout poses danger. It is that simple. There have been countless times where my friends and I have been 'locked out' of a venue after waiting in line for over an hour for entry. At this point, many patrons are left to walk (due to the obvious inaccessibility of trains) to venues such as the casino in the early hours of the morning in order to continue their night.

More alarming however has been the increase of recreational drug use in nightclubs. Prior to the introduction of these laws, I was quite accustomed to the use of recreational drugs at music festivals and concerts, however on a night out clubbing this was a less-usual occurrence. By drastically limiting the consumption of alcohol, and the introduction of 3am last drinks many young people simply feel that in order to have a good night, it is a much easier option to consume illegal drugs. Many youth feel the same about this issue. It is a general consensus amongst my age group that lockout laws are a punishment imposed on the majority for the wrongdoings of the minority. As opposed to limiting opportunities to those of us who behave sensibly and abide by laws, there should instead be a stricter regulations of those doing the wrong things- in order to deter their behaviour and encourage continued cooperation of others.

I ask you to consider this submission, and the issues which I have addressed within it. It is important to take into account the opinions of the people these laws are directly affecting- the youth. Whilst statistics may show improvements in behaviour, I personally have felt far less safe being locked out onto the streets of Kings Cross, unable to get a cab for up to 50 minutes. I have felt less safe being surrounded by recreational drug use, at places which I previously associated with atmospheres of social drinking. I ask that you look beyond your facts and figures in order to account for the reactions of the youth, many of whom have been driven to dabble in illicit drugs in order to compensate for their now dwindling nights out. Many people who were previously content to go out drinking have resorted to these measures in order to have a good time. Thankyou for considering this submission, I hope that in some minor way this has made an impact on your decision when reviewing this legislation.