

**Submission
No 75**

MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG- RELATED VIOLENCE

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Measures to Reduce Alcohol and Drug-Related Violence (Inquiry)

I strongly feel that the new lock out laws are inherently unfair, and do little to reduce the levels of alcohol related violence.

Fairness.

It is obvious that the laws are unfair, when they are simply geography based.. Businesses that happen to fall inside the "line" are penalised, Those on the outside are favoured. Star Casino is a startling example of this. No matter what the business has done to prevent violence, or how good their record, if they are on the wrong side of a line, they are severely disadvantaged.

Effectiveness.

The violence problem is not related to what happens inside the clubs and bars. The violence happens out in the street. If you want to reduce the violence on the street, surely the answer is to police the streets effectively. The bar and club owners do a good job of it inside their establishments.

Of course areas like Kings Cross will always attract people who are prone to violent behaviour, however they are in a tiny minority. These laws have prevented violence by excluding everybody. Huge numbers of people have been denied their weekend relaxation. Huge numbers of tourists are turned away. A large number of businesses are penalised. The drinking and violence will continue, it has just been forced out of the city and under ground, where it is much harder to police.

The lock out laws are draconian, and do not reflect the modern and free society that Sydney should be.

Roger Perrett