

**Submission  
No 26**

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

**Organisation:** Keep Sydney Open  
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Dear Committee Members,

Keep Sydney Open is an initiative of the Sydney Late Night Culture Alliance which includes MusicNSW, Fbi Radio, SLAM, GoodGod Small Club, Oxford Art Factory, TheMusic.com.au, inthemix and The Music Network. We are people who love music and support the venues that make it available to Sydney residents and visitors.

We support safe nights in a global city. We support live music.

The late-night music venues that focus on culture, entertainment and socialising provide a safe environment for social interaction and recreation and have contributed to building a wonderful late night economy in Sydney.

We urge the committee to consider the following benefits the live music industry creates for Sydney.

- Live music creates 15,000 full-time jobs serving 41.97 million patrons attending 328,000 venue-based live music performances at 3,904 venues across Australia.
- New South Wales represents 32% of industry output and is the largest component of the venue-based live music industry.
- Live music venues have been demonstrated to increase feelings of safety in the nighttime environment, improve social bonds, and contribute to overall wellbeing and happiness (Deloitte Access Economics, 2011)
- There are over 2,500 licensed premises in the City of Sydney LGA. Of these only 143 are registered with APRA |AMCOS as live music venues (CoS Live Music and Performance Action Plan, 2013).
- As live music venues generally trade with lower profit margins, reduced patronage as a result of the lockout laws tougher for cultural venues than general licensed premises that are subsidised by gaming or pokies revenue

- Freezes are likely to stifle the cultural growth of our city, right at a time when small bars and cultural venues are helping to reduce violence

We urge the committee to consider making amendments to the law that recognise that a well-managed venue is the safest place for people to be at night.

We urge the committee to consider provisions that reflect the importance of venues which are predominantly hosts of local live music which is fundamental to supporting the Sydney music and creative industries.

We urge you to Keep Sydney Open!