

**Submission
No 106**

MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG- RELATED VIOLENCE

Name: Mr Jonathan Ussia
Date Received: 20/08/2014

Hi,

I realise that the closing date for submissions was last Friday, but I just realised comments were open, I was hoping you would consider a late submission. I'll keep my thoughts short.

1. **Trends in violence in licenced venues and general street areas:** In my opinion, violence in licenced venues has dropped which is always a good thing. However, outside, people seem to be frustrated, especially after the 1:30am lockout when groups of people who were trying to get into venues have been turned away simultaneously, suddenly taxi services are in high demand (which are really, the only viable transport option late at night) and will often only take people who are going to valuable destinations (it may be illegal, but it is true) often causing conflicts.
2. **Impact on recent measures to reduce violence on police, hospitals and the liquor industry:** Lower incidents mean less work for hospitals and in theory police, but the police are often severely outnumbered by patrons on the street. Rather than dealing with patrons as they leave venues at their own leisure, they are often dealing with mass exodus after final drinks have been served, or groups have been refused entry.
3. **Possible further measures to reduce violence:** Encouraging the "right" type of venues, small bars, dedicated music/theatre/comedy venues etc. that provide entertainment have much lower incidents than large clubs/bars which exist nearly solely to provide a place to sell alcohol. "Entertainment venues" use alcohol as a means to provide enough income to supplement their other endeavours which otherwise would not be economically viable.
4. **The effectiveness of measures taken in other jurisdictions:** Measures implemented in the CBD area has resulted in a boom in people exploring other options (warehouse/house parties) on the outskirts and in outer suburbs. The risk with this is if an incident did occur, emergency services and enforcement are not in the vicinity or may not be prepared to take proper action.
5. **Other related matters:** Any reduction in violence is welcome, however people are much safer inside venues where security and the venue owner has a responsibility to take care of patrons and can identify and isolate potential issues, rather than forcing/keeping people outside where public safety becomes the sole duty of the police force.

Thank you for considering my suggestions.

Kind regards,

Jonathan Ussia

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