

**Submission
No 90**

MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE

Name: Name Suppressed
Date Received: 15/08/2014

Partially Confidential

I would like the committee to take into account the negative impacts the measures are having on the LGBTI community and consider options for excluding venues from the new measures that cater to this community who have a demonstrated history of compliance with government policy and provide generally safe venues.

My partner and I travel from the Central Coast to socialise and enjoy a night out in venues that we feel safe and secure in free from harassment with other LGBTI community members. We do not have access to a 'local' venue that we can do this. Unfortunately the majority of quality venues that cater for our need fall within the boundaries of the new measures and this impacts of our access and enjoyment of these venues.

The lock out time of 1.30am is far too early when traveling from the Central Coast. After finishing work on a Friday, we have dinner, and then get ready to go out. It is usually 10.30pm to 11.00pm that we leave the Coast, arriving in the Oxford St precinct between midnight and 12.30am. We find that we must now choose just one venue to visit, usually a dance venue, rather than our past practice of a quiet drink and socializing at a venue (pub style), then moving to another venue such as a dance venue.

It is noticeable that the pub style venues are struggling with decreased patronage since the new rules and we fear these venues will close and be lost as venues that are safe for LGBTI people to use.

We are also finding that many venues are now closing at 3 am in conjunction with the ban of alcohol sales. This again limits the time my partner and I can enjoy a safe environment to enjoy and socialise in. It is obvious that non-LGBTI people have simply adopted the practice of moving to venues outside the boundaries in Sydney's suburbs or the Casino precinct. As LGBTI people we do not have this option if we want to remain in a safe, secure, welcoming environment. Therefore we urge the committee to recommend the removal of LGBTI venues that have a history of compliance with government policy and of being a safe venue from the boundary of the new rules with a view of the importance these venues play in making available a safe secure environment for LGBTI people to socialise in and recognizing that these types of venues are not accessible in the majority of areas in the rest of the state.