

**Submission
No 86**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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As someone who has dedicated years of their life to furthering their academic studies, to better their career opportunities and who has taken many volunteer and internship roles to gain experience in Sydney's music and nightlife, it is heartbreaking to have my home city reject an iconic aspect of Sydney. Something I grew to love through the stories of my grandparents and parents from the 70s to the 90s.

There is a disproportionate amount of negativity placed on the social interactions in the music and culture industries. Showing a complete disregard for other entertainment or business areas that engage in just as worrisome behaviours creates an unnecessary negative framing of the less competitive areas of society. Sport which pushes a highly competitive side of its viewers and participants fuelled with alcohol seems to be overlooked. Or, the absolutely appalling behaviour at Spring Racing events. I feel far more unsafe out in Sydney when a sport game is on, than when there is a music event or nightclub around. There has also been published distinct correlations with increases in (domestic) violence and sports games, irrespective of the home team outcome.

Education in schools is not enough and is censored leading to an overall distrust of the information. Recreational drug use is often taught with an association to partying and 'party drugs', this is further perpetrated by the media and government only discussing it publicly in relation to young adults, music festivals and nightclubs. Access of information means young adults and individuals can access information that can contradict or disprove information taught in schools. I have heard many people refer to what that learnt in health classes as completely misleading and based off outdated information. This leads of a lack of trust with most health and safety education as participants feel they are only hearing a carefully selected set of facts and information.

It is so important to have community areas in society that are not focused around competition or personal success.

High levels of publicity and debate have only made this a greyer area for young adults. Politicians are not adequately informed or experienced to talk when every medical and legal organisation or association disagrees with the standpoint of the acting government. These organisations are in place to talk from points of extremely high levels of education, research and experience, in multiple areas of a very complex and specific field. For politicians to oppose collectively hundreds of years of medical and legal experience, to me, appears astoundingly ignorant.

We need to change our community attitudes around music events, intoxication, youth culture and become comfortable with society operating in less competitive arenas. This needs to start with our politicians. They can help explain to older members of society, who still trust politicians, these changing global notions, that have been of high discussion for half a century in our own country. NSW Parliament even features a newspaper with a advertisement encouraging people to vote against prohibition in Australia. Crazy to think that we had better insight in 1917 than we do in 2019.

Thank you for your time,

Maddison