

**Submission  
No 264**

## **SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY**

**Name:** Mr Russell White

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I am a gay man who has 10 years experience working as a barman during and immediately preceding my time at university. I often only got to go out on week nights in the Newtown area. If I went out on weekends it would be squeezed in after work which would finish 1pm.

(I would often be refused entry to nearly all venues showing up at a late hour even though I was completely sober, my friends who would have been drinking would leave these venues at this point to find a place that will let me in. They wouldn't have an issue on the door but I would. My eyes go bloodshot when I'm tired. I have never taken drugs).

While I'm older now and no longer work behind a bar. Under the lockout laws my nights out with my friends would never have happened. I would not have gotten into any venues at a practical hour.

My weeknight nights were always better. I would be able to enjoy the beautiful and diverse music scene in Newtown. Many of these venues have closed since the lockout laws came into effect. The scene has changed to accommodate the new crowd (and complaining residents) with different tastes. I don't feel the venues there cater to as diverse a crowd as they once did.

The effect the lockout laws would have had on me as a young gay man would have been to locked me out of the scene on oxford street and crowd me out the former diverse scene in Newtown.

As a young man I was sad and lonely but held onto hope because one day I would be able to go out in Sydney and learn the scene and find acceptance. Now I'm older I still find myself lonely but I cannot see Sydney as where I will go to find hope. The lockout laws have torn apart the city I used to love and feel loved in.

The hardest part is the people responsible don't care about how I suffer watching the city I knew die like this. They tell us its for our own good that the scene we used to thrive in dangerous and immoral. A scene they show no understanding of because it was not for them.

An empathetic person would have heard the peoples pain. Being dismissed as young person, as immoral and as dangerous. ignoring and not accommodating the needs of diverse communities. Being told to conform and assimilate. This is not Sydney I grew up in. This is not the 21st century. This is not respecting your fellow citizens and their needs.

Vive la difference  
End the lockouts.  
Invest in a vibrant nightlife

Your sincerely,  
Russell White.