

**Submission
No 391**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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The Hon. Natalie Ward MLC
Committee Chair
Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night-time Economy
NightTimeEconomy@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Ward

Re: Submission to the Inquiry into Sydney's Night-time Economy

I am writing to inform you of five studies that appear relevant to your deliberations. Items 2-5 are either undergoing peer-review with scientific journals or are about to be submitted for consideration.

1. Nepal S, Kypri K, Pursey K, et al. (2018). Effectiveness of lockouts in reducing alcohol-related harm: Systematic review. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 37(4): 527-536.
2. Nepal S, Kypri K, Tekelab T, et al. (under review). Effects of extensions and restrictions in alcohol trading hours on the incidence of assault and unintentional injury: Systematic review. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*
3. Nepal S, Kypri K, Attia J, et al (under review). Risk-based liquor licensing and the incidence of assault in Queensland, Australia. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*
4. Kypri K & Livingston M (under review). Assault in Sydney, Australia, through five years of alcohol trading hour restrictions: Controlled-before-and-after study
5. Deeming S & Kypri K (in preparation). Costing alcohol-related assault in the night-time economy: The case of central Sydney.

Papers 1 and 2, led by final year PhD candidate, Dr Nepal, are the most up-to-date systematic reviews of the international evidence on the effects of changes in lockouts and trading hour restrictions, respectively.

Paper 3, also led by Dr Nepal, presents an evaluation of risk-based licensing in Queensland, in terms of its effects on the incidence of assault. You may be aware that this approach was adopted several years ago in NSW. I consider the findings relevant to your review because they speak to what is possible through 'softer' regulation.

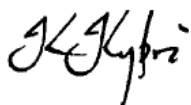
Paper 4 examines the longevity in effects of the February 2014 restrictions in NSW, along with an analysis of geographic and temporal displacement. We have updated our analysis to take into account the most recent data available, up to February 2019. We improve upon previous research by accounting for the state-wide trend, and by testing for displacement to outer suburbs of Sydney.

Paper 5 provides the first estimates of the cost per incident of alcohol-related assault, focusing on the Sydney entertainment precincts. This is the culmination of a 3-year project involving the construction of decision trees, derivation of risk weights, and detailed investigation to determine unit cost estimates. Critically, the study encompasses medical and healthcare costs along with costs arising from police and judicial processes. Such information has been absent from public and political debate, except in the emotive terms of individual tragedy, making consideration of costs versus benefits of various policy options largely speculative.

It is likely that one or more of papers 2-5 will be accepted for publication in the coming months. However, until the work has survived the rigour of peer review and been accepted in final form, I will not report the findings publicly. I find it concerning that at least one researcher recently made public statements about research that has not been reviewed, and I urge you to employ established methods (e.g., a systematic review including formal assessment of bias) for evaluating claims concerning the effects of the restrictions. This is now a routine practice within the NSW Ministry of Health and ought to be applied in this case given the implications of this policy for health outcomes.

Recognising the urgency of your deliberations, I am willing to give a private briefing on these findings, and to respond to any questions you may have about these and other studies. Please contact me if you would like to arrange a time for me to do that.

Sincerely,



Kypros Kypri, PhD