

**Submission
No 578**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I have worked in Sydney's LGBTI community around Oxford Street Darlinghurst for more than 25 years. The lockouts have had a disproportionate effect on LGBTIQ venues and social and community spaces, as a disproportionate percentage of these places are located inside the lockout zone. The severe adverse economic impact of the lockout policy on the zone have been well documented and they have disproportionately impacted LGBTIQ community spaces.

The lockouts have not just affected bars and clubs (and the thousands of people who work in these businesses), they have decimated the restaurant sector and other industries that rely on the local economy. The lockouts have severely affected shops, cafes and service providers who don't operate in the night time economy but benefit from it indirectly. Countless business closures, relocations or downsizings have turned Oxford Street into a wasteland.

In this way, the lockouts appear to discriminate heavily in their effect against the LGBTIQ community, even if there was no intention to discriminate in the legislation. LGBTIQ venues, and Oxford Street, are fundamental to our cultural, artistic and social expression and therefore remain in my view fundamental to the well-being of the community and its members.

Despite the significant advances in LGBTIQ rights in recent times, there remains much to do to achieve true and lasting equality. We still very much need spaces where we can work, socialise, create, celebrate and commiserate with our community. We need both daytime spaces and night time spaces, and it's been clear in the last 5 years of the lockouts that these are actually reliant on each other.

An economically strong, diverse and vibrant community in the inner east in my opinion remains fundamental to the health and well-being of Sydney LGBTIQ people. This cannot be achieved while the lockouts are in place.