

**Submission
No 687**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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I am writing to voice my support for the abolishment of Sydney's lockout laws. The rationale for the initial introduction of the lockout laws was weak and it remains weak. Violent incidents were already decreasing in the lockout area when media and politicians together whipped up a great deal of moral panic in order to enact these nanny state laws.

Preliminary data from Sydney University research throws doubt on the claim that lockout laws have reduced crime and have only had an indirect effect by more than halving the overnight visitors to King's Cross. (<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/lockout-laws-haven-t-curbed-violence-in-cbd-new-research-20190617-p51yi4.html>)

Lockout laws have stifled Sydney's nightlife and made it the laughing stock of the international community. It's time for NSW politicians to take a reality check, look at other modern cities around the world and realise that Sydney cannot continue down this road.

As a doctor I am concerned about the safety of people out and about at night but I believe the way towards a safer Sydney is increasing pedestrian traffic at all hours. This way a minority of the population who misbehave when consuming alcohol are outnumbered by responsible people enjoying a night out.

Social cohesion and interaction is very important in any city and for everyone's mental health and wellbeing. Young and old people meeting up and dancing connects disparate groups of Sydneysiders and make us all less isolated. I worry that we become less social beings more involved in our own online bubbles when we reduce the opportunity for people to get together and dance.

Regards,

Dr Declan Peake

NOTE: The above views are my own and do not represent my employers