

**Submission  
No 528**

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

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A reduction in assaults has always been, and remains, at the heart of any defence for the lockouts. But any statistics quoted previously were not taking into account the broader statewide trends and the large decreases in foot traffic happening at the same time as the lockout laws. For example, non-domestic violence was already falling before the introduction of the lockout laws.

Preliminary research conducted by Sydney University suggests the laws may only have had an indirect result on the decline in the number of non-domestic assaults in Kings Cross because the number of overnight visitors to the precinct has almost halved. Lockout laws are not having an effect in the CBD, where most of the crime is actually taking place.

And a study of Qld's lockout laws suggest that these restrictions lead people to 'pre-load' drinks before going out. If more people are getting drunk at home and staying home, is there a corresponding increase in the occurrence of domestic violence? From the government's track record I assume this is of little consequence in your considerations, but I would urge you to take this into account as well.

On top of the actual ineffectiveness of the laws in reducing violence, the state of the city should be taken into account as well. A once vibrant, international city is disappointing on every front for visitors and locals alike. Want to go out for a meal after 9pm? Nope. Want to get a bottle of wine on the way home from dinner at 11:30? Nope. Want to see a live band, or DJ? Sorry, they've all moved to Melbourne, because they can't make a living here anymore. Want to go to a small bar and enjoy a drink in an actual glass late at night? Only plastic cups sorry.

These rules are negatively impacting small businesses, the hospitality industry, and the live music industry and those people employed in these fields. These people and their livelihoods should be considered in any review of these lockout laws. As well as all of the above reasons for why the lockout laws do more harm to the city as a whole, is the intense disappointment I've experienced with this government since these laws came into effect. The death of a single person from a one-punch incident should be enough to effect change and a review of our drinking culture, I agree. The way in which it was done though, doesn't appear to have made any lasting long-term effect on violence in Sydney.

And on top of this is the knowledge that a woman is killed each week by a partner in Australia, and yet no one has bothered to make any dramatic change or review of current laws, education, support services or the like, for this issue. Either the government considers some members of society more important than others and more deserving of their protection, or the lockout laws were in fact not introduced with a view to reduce violence, but to ensure that traffic was funneled to those areas that were not under the lockout laws, eg. the casino