

**Submission  
No 647**

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

**Name:** Ms Svetlana Gilerman

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To whom it may concern,

I have so much to write & I have written & communicated my concerns many times since lock-out laws were introduced. This is just a short summary.

I am a 47 year old full time DJ & Music Director. I'm a lifelong non- drinker. I have been a DJ for over 28 years & am a Music Director on an International level, including for Fashion Weeks around the world & Alex Perry's director of 15 years.

Immediately after lockouts were introduced, half of the venues that I worked at closed down (within a couple of months) & I lost 2/3 of my income. I have a mortgage & family to support.

The venues that I worked in never had problem with violence yet as LGBTQI venues, they were disproportionately targeted & harassed by police presence & shut down.

Due to streets in the city /Darlinghurst areas becoming ghost town, I started feeling unsafe on the streets for the first time in my DJ career. This lack of safety moved into the Inner West. I have also been a victim of a break-in into my car while I was still in it - shortly after parking just off Oxford St in between two gigs at 11.30pm at night. This was in the middle of the worst of the lockouts in Dec 2017. I was very lucky in that I was very physically fit at the time and smashed the guy out of my car after a struggle but ripped my arm tendon in the process & struggled with physical pain ever since. I worked for every weekend for 20 years in the strip before that & never felt in danger before lockouts & had never had any problems with safety before - when we had crowds on the street.

My partner & I are both female & both DJ's and are locked out of each other's venues on a weekly basis after one of us invariably finished work earlier than the other due to nights being dead. We are left to sit outside venues that we work in on other nights waiting for the other so we can drive home together. We are literally locked out of safe spaces at 2/3am to be left with harassment by men on the street.

This weekend at a day time event for a Gay International artist, many of my fellow DJ's & patrons were targeted by aggressive cops & forcibly strip searched even though the dogs didn't go near them because of their effeminate appearance.

I have watched the rapid decline of attendance from International & interstate visitors to Sydney since word had got out about the heavy handed tactics of our government & police. I have the record of DJing at the most Mardi Gras parties on history (30 of them) so I have a good perspective on that observation.

As an Internationally recognised DJ, I can tell you that artist. I longer are as keen to come here to perform & the existing promoters trying to retain our culture are going broke because without NSW, they can not afford to tour artists.

We need this to end. We have all the evidence that these tactics are not only not working, but have made our environment far more dangerous, especially for women & LGBTQI people. And we are finding it hard to survive.

Harm minimisation works, especially in the hands of educated people. Please consider repealing these laws so that we can make Sydney safe, vibrant & to create employment opportunities for those who have dedicated their lives to the craft.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Sveta