

**Submission
No 158**

**INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Dr Adam Berger

Date received: 23 February 2018

To the committee,

I am a hospital physician within NSW Health, but I write to you as a private citizen and passionate music fan appalled by what has happened to the live music scene within this once vibrant city.

There is a long history of a strong relationship between live music and licensed venues in this city, but successive government's erosive attacks on this city's nightlife through ill-advised licensing laws have decimated the small live music venues which used to flourish around the inner city, to the detriment of our cultural life.

The small bar "revolution" was just beginning to change Sydney's cultural nightlife scene for the better, away from large and crowded hotels and pubs, until the lockout laws laid waste to the previously thriving night precincts of Kings Cross, Darlinghurst, Paddington and the CBD.

What city sorely needs is a move away from the draconian and byzantine licensing policies which have eroded the ability of sensible adults to enjoy live music and a drink of an evening by directly causing so many small venues to close.

I urge you to deregulate our night time economy and allow our inner city bars and pubs to flourish once again. Our city is becoming a laughing stock, dead, dull and shut down.

Thank you.