

**Submission
No 179**

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

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I am a 25 year old teacher of English as a second language, currently studying a Master's degree, and born and raised in Sydney. I speak three languages, and have lived, travelled and worked through various different parts of the world. I was a part of Sydney nightlife before it changed, and still am to this day. Importantly, what has changed? It doesn't take a genius to see the economic or cultural repercussions- countless venues have closed and Kings Cross is now a place to go for coffee. However, these are not the only negative impacts. Illegal parties are happening more and more (which, let's be honest, are fantastic for punters). Yet, they are dangerous. There is no security, often no water available, can be in risky areas, prevent people from going to the remaining pubs that are open, and are an environmental issue. The thing is, most people can actually be trusted to do the right thing in this city, proven by the fact that Sydney actually is a super safe city, even at these illegal parties. The problem with the lockouts is that they are a huge driving force for people to find other ways, to work around police and the government, so they feel they can be free and enjoy themselves in peace. The thing is, we shouldn't have to rack our brains to find ways to have awesome parties and a great time, we should be allowed, and we should be provided with resources to do it in a safe manner. Increased public transport, police in high risk areas, even government involvement in putting on after dark events and getting involved with the culture, instead of turning their backs on it. Sydney is such a fantastic city that deserves a fantastic nightlife- we have so much to work with. We have the opportunity to turn Sydney around into the best it has ever been, by creating modern policies that not only work to protect the people and culture of Sydney, they help promote it. We should have a night mayor to deal with this, and we should be getting creative about how we can make Sydney a safe, profitable and fun place for people to be- for all ages, religions and cultures. We are never going to cut crime 100%, we just need to do all we can to minimise the risk of it- this shouldn't involve shutting down the city because it's the easiest thing to do. Keep Sydney Open has some great policies and ideas, and even though they are young people, should really be listened to carefully- they love Sydney and the people in it. We all want to see it be the happiest, safest and most enjoyable place possible. Let's rebuild Sydney.