

**Submission  
No 311**

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

**Name:** Mr Alexander O'Toole

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The Music and Arts Economy in NSW is currently struggling, due years of early lock-outs and their knock-on effects (reduced patronage, venue closures, restaurant closures) and inadequate protections for live music venues from complainants, especially in cases where the venue and its activities predate the arrival of the complainant(s).

I encourage the state government to support this vibrant sector of the NSW community by way of removing the lock-out laws completely, reviewing alcohol licensing laws for small-capacity venues - including restaurants and eateries that incorporate live music and art performance into their business, and recognising that the issue of 'alcohol-fueled violence' exists separately from music and arts.

I am a musician, operating as a sole trader for taxation purposes. I have seen a significant decrease in my earning potential in recent years, due entirely to the issues mentioned above. I am not alone in feeling the impact of overregulation. My fellow musicians are feeling the same impact, as are venues owners/operators, their bar and restaurant staff, late trading food outlets and convenience stores, taxi drivers and myriad other stakeholders.

The night time economy is a vital part of any vibrant city. Sydney has lost much of it's night time vibrancy and deserves to regain it.