

Media Release:

Keep the lockout laws, say Kings Cross residents

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Residents of Kings Cross, Darlinghurst, and Woolloomooloo want to ensure their case is heard over the loud and incessant liquor industry's campaign to end the lockout laws.

"The lockout laws have succeeded in restoring safety, diversity and amenity to our neighbourhoods," Darlinghurst Residents Action Group's coordinator, Jo Holder said.

"From 2007 when the deregulation of the alcohol trading hours was put in place, the rapid increase in the number of outlets and extended trading hours meant that our communities were overrun every weekend by crowds of binge drinkers. They literally ransacked our neighbourhood and left with little or no regard for the residents who had to endure their noise and pollution. The lockout and last drinks legislation brought welcome respite for residents and many small businesses. We ask the Government to maintain their stance on the lockout laws rather than caving in to the many false claims made by the AHA. Their commercial gain was at significant cost to the community," Ms Holder noted.

Sydney City Council itself admitted how bad it was before the lockout laws. In 2010 Sydney City Council recorded 80 incidents of anti-social behaviour in one hour on a Friday night.

<http://www.sydneymedia.com.au/4438-late-night-sydney-under-the-spotlight/>

"Since the lockout laws, Potts Point and Kings Cross have experienced a renaissance," said Helen Crossing, the convenor of the 2011 Residents Association. "There is but one economy and the encouragement of night-time trading businesses was at the expense of those that traded during the day. A survey our Association conducted earlier this year revealed that over 70 new businesses have opened in Kings Cross since the introduction of the lockouts in February 2014."

As just reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, a new report from the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education argues that the impact of the lockouts on foot traffic and on business in Kings Cross has been exaggerated.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/report-claims-lockouts-impact-exaggerated-20160828-gr33bf.html>

"There are many urban myths claiming that nightlife has shut down because of the lockout laws. Continuing to talk about Sydney being closed and having no nightlife will only help to steer people away. In fact, before the lockout laws businesses that were near nightclubs and pubs in Kings Cross and Oxford Street were closing because people were afraid for their safety due to the crowds of heavily intoxicated people in the streets," Ms Crossing noted.

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/restaurants-and-bars/a-diners-favourite-stripped-of-its-past-20120330-1w4i4.html>

"Contrary to what many opponents of lockout laws believe, nightlife is still alive and well. Since July 2014 2.45 million patrons have attended Kings Cross licensed venues, according to ID scanner data," Ms Crossing added.

"The lockout and last drinks legislation has done so much to restore amenity and safety in our neighbourhoods."

"We are greatly encouraged by the results of the survey just published by the *Sydney Morning Herald* which report that 'a majority of NSW voters say the ... 'lockout' laws in Sydney's centre should be extended across the state and three-quarters of young people support existing laws'," Ms Holder said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/majority-back-broader-lockout-laws-across-the-state-20160828-gr31t9.html>

"There have been many positive changes that have arisen and will continue to emerge. We call on the NSW Government to keep these highly effective laws in place," Ms Holder concluded.

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Issued by:

Jo Holder, Convenor, Darlinghurst Residents Action Group (DRAG)
Helen Crossing, Convenor, 2011 Residents Association

Media enquiries to Jo Holder: 0406 537 933