



# 2011 Residents' Association Inc.

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Dear Editor,

Residents are concerned about the current media push from the Liquor Accord and the AHA designed to bring about an early review of Liquor reforms and implicit in this, a reversion to the free reign that bar and hotel owners enjoyed prior to the legislative changes made by Barry O'Farrell in February 2014.

We would like to ensure that what is presented for publication by their representatives and politicians is an accurate reflection of the facts, and not fabricated in an effort to gain support from the public through deception.

A recent article listing closures in Kings Cross and loss of jobs is one that was noted by a number of residents as containing inaccurate and therefore misleading information. Some facts:

- The Trademark did not close; it changed its name to Studio X, incorporating the old Piano Room that had closed years prior to the legislative changes. The refurbishment of this venue started after the lockouts were introduced.
- The Goldfish Bowl on the ground floor of the Crest Hotel closed when the owners sold to developers. It was first bought by Iris Corporation about 18 months ago and more recently sold to Chinese investors. It will become a residential and commercial hub.
- SOHO closed after a public lawsuit where the owner's son was convicted for the sexual assault of a patron. Their closure was directly linked to a marked reduction in patron support after this serious incident.
- Hugo's was only open 3 or 4 nights a week and has been on the market for some time. Hugo's may not have had three strikes against it, but there were breaches with respect to noise.

At the peak of the social experiment where Kings Cross was actively marketed as a party destination, there were as many as 283 licenced premises selling alcohol in 1.4 square kilometres. It resulted in violence, vomit, and vandalism. For a period of eight years residents, lost their neighbourhood; they were afraid to go out at night, and inconvenienced by garbage, noise, and property damage. City of Sydney was inadequately resourced to ensure compliance to plans of management and police and hospital staff were overwhelmed by demands on them to deal with violence and physical harm caused by excessive consumption of alcohol. Many venues breached their DA conditions yet suffered no consequence.

Post the legislation a number of new restaurants and bars have opened in the area providing employment and an enjoyable night out for patrons. The daytime economy has also picked up with new shops opening where there were once shuttered doors. Kings Cross is changing and for the better. It has a new energy and vitality which could never have been achieved with crowds of drunken and disorderly people, who frequently acted without regard for themselves or others.

I and other residents are available to assist with research and can be contacted on the number below.

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