



**Personal choice and community impacts Senate inquiry**

Keep Sydney Open wishes to make a submission to the Senate inquiry addressing terms of reference B, *the sale and service of alcohol, including any impact on crime and the health, enjoyment and finances of drinkers and non-drinkers.*

Below are some of the broader issues we wish to raise, which have been raised by a number of business owners, employees and members of the public:

- lack of community and business consultation
- lack of distinction between violent and non-violent venues
- lack of distinction between a cultural and non-cultural venue
- lack of protections in place for culturally significant venues
- failure to identify venues that are vital to a community or precinct
- failure to identify venues which do not attract violent patrons
- failure to measure economic impact of lockouts on small business
- failure to compensate for economic loss resulting from the change in legislation
- failure to consider the impact on the city's tourism and reputation
- failure to implement effective safety measures instead of lockouts
- failure to address root causes of violence
- failure of state government to value creative communities
- failure to accept responsibility for patron and crime dispersal
- failure to support entertainment precincts
- unfair focus on restricting general population and not perpetrators
- unfair treatment of young people
- exaggerated and misleading accounts of assault rates
- preferential treatment given to gambling venues over cultural hubs
- refusal to extend trading hours for small bars and non-violent venues
- overly expensive processes for exemption and extension applications
- lack of nuance in assessing niche venues and their risks
- lack of transport after midnight in and out of entertainment precincts
- conflating problem drinking with responsible drinking
- state government MPs deciding on inner-city issues despite lack of familiarity
- reports of unprofessional conduct and intimidation from licensing police

Keep Sydney Open is an advocacy group representing culturally significant venues and social spaces, artists, musicians as well as local inner-city residents and members of the public across NSW.