

From: [Katina Black](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Written Submission Addressing Alcohol-fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2015
Date: Wednesday, 23 December 2015 3:55:00 PM

Dear Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee,

My name is Katina Black. I am writing to you as a concerned 20 year-old Queenslander who enjoys going to nightclubs and bars almost every weekend with my friends, whereby I usually always feel safe and have many fantastic adventures.

I understand that alcohol-fuelled violence is an issue within society that needs to be addressed. However, I do not believe that the proposed Bill will serve to fix this issue. Instead, I believe it will cause more harm than good to Queensland's economy and social activity.

This is because, the Bill will encourage more people to:

- Drink GREATER amounts of alcohol in the shorter time they have left to drink i.e. "Let's have 4 drinks each in this hour because the bar will be shut off after 2am," thus rendering drunker people which is what we want to avoid
- Look to DRUGS because they can't drink alcohol in the way they want to i.e. they cannot drink after 2am
- GAMBLE because these laws won't apply to Casinos and other venues with pokies machines, thus people will venture there for their drinks and be immersed into the gambling world and it's associated problems (which are far too many to list)
- Have HOUSE PARTIES whereby they can drink as much as they want to & thus disturb the peace and quiet of the suburbs
- face UNEMPLOYMENT, because if venues are being forced to shut down as less people are attending, then waitresses, barman, cleaning staff, security etc. will all be out of work and thus economically, this sector will degrade.
- NOT VISIT QLD. Imagine what the Gold Coast would be like at night-time if all these new rules & regulations were applied? It certainly would not be the buzzing, night-life, favourite destination it currently is.

The following evidence supports my reasoning for this Bill being unnecessary:

- Currently, the night time economy is estimated to be worth more than \$10 billion in Queensland and is vital to our status as the Tourism State. Consequently, it's important to

protect our night time entertainment culture.

- Currently, statistics suggest that only 1 in 55 000 arrests for assaults occur as a result of night-life activity influenced by alcohol. This means that there is great doubt that this Bill will serve to fix the problem, and thus will not be effective.

I strongly urge you to re-consider this Bill. Is it really going to achieve what we want it to achieve? Is it worth all the damage it will cause?

As an example, I can vouch that Brisbane's The Valley is most definitely a safe place to be. There's police on almost every corner, security guards are outside the entrance to every venue, and the majority of people are doing the right thing, and enjoying themselves in a safe manner.

Thus, we need to ask ourselves, "Why should we implement this Bill and punish the majority who do the right thing, because a minority cannot drink responsibly?" We should not. We need to target the minority through other means such as:

- Education through schools on safe alcohol use
- Consider a "Night-life Mayor" such as London is considering
- Stricter punishments for those who cannot behave appropriately
- Greater campaigns for safe alcohol use

Many thanks for your consideration,

Katina Black



P.S. There are over 7200 licensed venues in Queensland, and they are all interconnected in a complex ecosystem of entertainment experiences. These businesses all want to work cooperatively with the Government to implement safety initiatives that work for all Queenslanders and keep our night time economy strong. It's important to remember that we all want to achieve the same goal - we all want safe, yet FUN nightlife experiences.