

From: Cronau, Deborah [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 October 2009 9:56 AM
To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Inquiry into Alcohol-related violence in Queensland



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I'd like to make myself available for any input you may desire from people who live next to hotels.

I've owned a house on the opposite corner to the Full Moon hotel since about 1997.

A couple of rambling comments I like to provide to the inquiry are:

Smokers decks - these are located outside of course, that means there is no way of supervising or controlling or even observing patrons. After racist and sexual abuse being regularly yelled across the street from the smokers deck of the Full Moon, the previous manager - Liz Martin - got privacy screens erected. Now she's left, smoker just take their drinks and walk along the side of the building, there they stand for ages just watching me. Where she'd made it a non-drining area, now people are outside drinking and enjoying the fresh air. One pair of men standing drinking/smoking and watching me work in the yard so long, I went upstairs to get my camera, I tried to take a photo from under my house but they were still watching me and so now I have a photo of them waving! These are some of the problems during daylight. At night the drunken noise just gets worse and worse as they get more and more drunk, 2 weeks ago a brawl broke out near closing time and we called the police. We're unable to get to sleep until well after closing time every Friday and Saturday night because the smokers/drinkers deck is directly opposite our bedroom.

Closing time - after many, many house of drinking, drunks are turfed out onto the street and that is where the responsibility of the hotels ends - once they're off the property. Then, it becomes the problem of the neighbourhood. If it gets really bad we phone the police but we are scarred of being seen as serial whingers. We hear drunks fumbling for keys and trying to get into cars, drunkenly arguing about who is going to drive when clearly nobody is sober enough. A tenant at my house a few years back used to continually find drunks asleep in the front yard according to our real estate agent.

Our street is on a tourist route and is very popular with walkers and riders, they walk up our side street to get to the waterfront walking path at the front of our house. We have broken glass there every week, sometime glasses or bottles are left on our fence as urinators forget to pick them up after they use our fence as a toilet. We've seen people in broad daylight using the viewing platform, the side gardens of the hotel, and the hedge of the house behind the hotel as a urinal. We don't have a cement footpath, we can not pick up all the glass and it is only a matter of time before somebody's dog or child is injured. The idea of non-glass glasses is fantastic and very important. But, it should also go to the manufacture of those single-serve alcohol bottles which are also a major problem as they're thrown across the road or out of cars as the drunks are leaving. Police no longer have time to police public drinking and the amount of bottles littering our state is getting out of hand. We were leaving my mother's house in Clayfield one night last year and a bottle was thrown from a moving car smashing at our feet and cutting us both. If we'd

had our mothers or dog there it could have been so much more serious. We see young people with single serve alcohol bottles walking Junction Road in Clayfield every weekend at mum's, we've even seen a bottle thrown into the fence two doors down from mum's by a drinking youth, mid-afternoon, as a police car was driving past.

By far the biggest problem we've seen at the Full Moon was one of those drinking buses. Around Christmas last year a bus full of young men dressed in golf gear arrived, already drunk, at the Full Moon mid-afternoon. They were obviously too drunk to be served. That time of day the hotel didn't have the staff to control the problem. The young staff continued to serve them. During the next hour or so the drinking and drunkenness spilled out onto the footpath. The police did a couple of drinkpasts but didn't stop. Glasses smashed on the footpath, more than one person vomited on the deck of the hotel and on the footpath. They wandered the street urinating on plants and crossed the road and urinated over the guard-rail.

Owning a house next to a hotel makes me realize that they just don't belong surrounded by houses. Every time a new manager starts we have to start again, complaining until we're blue in the face, and not sleeping until about an hour after closing time. We're at that stage again now. The interim manager, who I never actually met or saw face-to-face threatened that he reported me to the police and telstra because I kept phoning because he wouldn't talk with me. His PA told me I was imagining the problem and that there was never any noise coming from the hotel and their patrons were never drunk! The new manager is very approachable but while we were told the hotel was going to become more family friendly, they've introduced bikini clad bar-maids and loud music. Hardly something to calm down drunks. There has been nowhere in our house where we couldn't hear loud rock music until after 11.30 at night. Not at all fair for hardworking people who really need their sleep!!

Anyway, I haven't checked this through for proper English or grammar. It is a bit of a stream-of-consciousness. I only read a letter this morning that our local member, Vicki, has sent us saying that submissions close today and I don't have time to write much. Please accept my appreciation at being able to email and please feel free to contact us should you wish to consider the detrimental impact of hotels on suburbs and innocent residents.

Regards

Deborah

Dr. Deborah A. Cronau

Dip.T., B.Ed.,B.A.(Library & Information Science); M.Ed.(Research);

M.App.Sc.(Library & Information Management); Ph.D.

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