



Weakening Sydney's alcohol laws will cost young lives

Media Release

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Emergency services workers are calling on NSW Parliament to maintain the successful alcohol laws after it was revealed today that Premier Berejiklian intended to form a cross party committee to examine the laws once again.

Last Drinks campaign spokesperson Dr Tony Sara said that if the review weakened Sydney's successful laws, alcohol related violence would once again surge.

"There is no doubt that Sydney's streets will once again be flooded with alcohol fueled violence. We'll see a dramatic increase in assaults, sexual assaults, injuries and deaths.

"Police will once again be taken away from tackling crime in our communities to contain the carnage and our hospital emergency departments will again overflow with young victims."

"The facts are clear. Sydney's successful alcohol laws have saved lives and prevented thousands of injuries."

"After the laws were introduced, Kings Cross saw a 59.2 per cent decrease in assaults between 6pm and 1.30am and a staggering 93.9 per cent decrease between 3am and 6am."

"Incidences of indecent and sexual assault in Kings Cross, the primary victims being women, have both reduced by almost 50%."

"St Vincent's Hospital saw a 50% reduction in serious head injuries between 8pm and 8am. All of these successes are now at risk."

"It would be extraordinarily reckless for any political party to put so many young lives at risk by repealing these successful and lifesaving laws."

Dr Sara also said that with the Callinan Review in 2016, the Government had already reviewed Sydney's alcohol laws, and found them to be sound.

"The Callinan Review confirmed that Sydney's alcohol laws had been highly successful, they've achieved massive reductions in violence and injury, saving countless lives."

"Additionally, opening times for licensed premises have already been extended half an hour to accommodate live music venues. Watering down these successful alcohol laws further will only lead to increased violence and deaths."

"We call on Premier Berejiklian and the NSW Parliament to put the lives of young people first. Protect these lifesaving laws.

Media Contact: Darren Rodrigo 0414783405