

For immediate release:

8th March 2010



Fight for nightlife about to get dark

Music lovers won't be dancing this week, as a fight to keep Brisbane's nightlife alive gets dark.

Brisbane lobby group Queensland Locked Out (QLO) will be making noise this Thursday in a protest against Anna Bligh's political quick fix proposal for a lockdown of entertainment precincts outside Parliament House.

Opposed to the plans to reduce licensee trading hours across Queensland, and in Brisbane's CBD and Fortitude Valley, QLO will be using people power to demonstrate they won't be bullied by a Government that doesn't do their homework, speaking with volume about consequential issues surrounding the proposed plan.

Founder of QLO and rally organiser Zach Salar says the protest is not purely in regards to fighting for the right to party, but is in response to a number of serious issues such as the expected economic downfall to both businesses and individuals.

"We don't believe Anna Bligh has taken all relevant issues into consideration with these drastic measures," he said.

"The shutdown of clubs at 2am will be extremely detrimental to the hospitality industry affecting the livelihood of individuals as well as a myriad of business operations. It's a domino effect, and a multitude of people will be at a loss.

"In addition to this the incidence of binge drinking is likely to rise as a direct consequence of the changes.

"If there is a reduction in the time a club is open, it effectively encourages people to drink more across a shorter time span – something that Prime Minister Kevin Rudd himself has actively campaigned against.

"There are a variety of alternatives that we are able to suggest as a representation of those who enjoy the entertainment precincts in question.

"Enforcing harsher penalties, increasing police numbers or introducing ID scanners into all clubs are all practical suggestions to a problem that we consider to have been blown out of proportion.

"We really question how Anna Bligh is able to make such a decision without appropriate consultation with those whom it is going to affect the most.

"Placing thousands of people onto the streets in the early hours of the morning will only exacerbate the current violence issues."

QLO believes with relevant and accurate facts, statistics and consultations; a powerful, long-term solution will be found.

For the moment however, the lyrics to this protest song are quite clear: turning the music off is not a viable option.

<http://queenslandlockedout.com>