



## **The Impacts of COVID-19 on Gay Bars and Events in New South Wales, Australia**

A COVID-19 Sydney Policy Paper In Depth, authored by University of Sydney chief investigator Dr. Chris Pepin-Neff and co-authors Dr. Laura Welty and Mr. Ben Ormerod

**February 2023**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

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## Acknowledgement of Country

The Sydney Policy Lab acknowledges the generations upon generations of Traditional Custodians that have held responsibilities for Country, “custodian-ing” it from one generation to the next. We acknowledge the cultural protocols of protecting and holding knowledges that have sustained culture and Country for over 60,000 years.

Based in Sydney, we acknowledge the Gadigal Elders, past and present, and the beautiful Gadi Country where we work. We extend this acknowledgement to the Country, Elders and Ancient Ones of many other First Nations communities across Australia. We honour and respect the sovereignty of the many Nations where we live and work. We are committed to working respectfully with First Nations communities across these beautiful lands, seas and skies.

## About the Sydney Policy Lab

The Sydney Policy Lab was created by the University of Sydney to be a multi-disciplinary, non-partisan space where the academy and the community can come together to investigate and solve complex policy issues that face our world, build community and make progress. It represents a powerful contribution by the university to the common good.

The Lab’s prime focus is on and with community. It was created by people searching for practical answers to the question of how we can best arrange our life together. Its work reflects this, building relationships with and between people from diverse backgrounds to encourage greater empathy and understanding, supporting them to create community-led policies. In particular, we want to work with those who have been excluded from power.

## Our COVID-19 Sydney Policy Papers

Our COVID-19 Sydney Policy Papers provide expert guidance to decisionmakers and the broader public about the key principles, perspectives and themes to keep front of mind when grappling with pressing, deeply complicated and high stakes policy challenges. Our *In Depth Papers* provide specialised analysis and policy recommendations in individual policy domains. [Access all the COVID-19 Sydney Policy Papers here.](#)

The authors of this paper would like to acknowledge the support of the Paul Ramsay Foundation for their contribution to this research through the Lab’s Strengthening Australian Civil Society project. The grant provided was instrumental in enabling the completion of this policy paper. We are grateful for the Foundation’s support and their ongoing commitment to enabling equitable opportunity for people and communities to thrive.

## Preamble: A word about gay bars

This paper sheds new light on the impact of COVID-19 on gay communities in New South Wales (NSW). It reports on the first phase of a larger study about social capital in LGBTIQ+ communities in NSW. Here we focus on gay bars and events because they represent a measurable population during a crisis period. Gay bars and events constitute an important source of social capital for gay communities, in addition to being spaces of social cohesion for other LGBTIQ+ communities (Hankin, 2002).

We acknowledge that what constitutes a 'gay bar', or even a queer space, is often unclear. A 'gay bar' is often an umbrella term encompassing a range of corner bars, piano bars, leather bars and discos, to under-age gay dances and drag shows (Shaw, 1997: 137). Spaces may evolve or be 'questionably queer', as the orientation of a venue may be unclear, or its political queerness may be in question. Indeed, part of increased LGBTIQ+ social tolerance has often involved increased heterosexual presence in previously "marginal places" (Hartless, 2019). In this analysis, gay and gay-related venues and events are those that cater to gay communities.

We believe our findings could signal a bigger problem for broader LGBTIQ+ communities as well as other marginalized groups. This paper raises questions about public investment in social assets that build societal resilience, and this is an issue deserves further investigation.

# Executive Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic represents a once-in-100-years episode which shut down communities, shut in households, and closed businesses. The impact of these closures and lockdowns on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ+) communities in Australia is only now being examined.

The Sydney Policy Lab COVID-19 Policy Papers *In Depth* focus on what we must attend to now, to ensure that the society we live is one where everyone can flourish. This paper brings together a review of businesses that have opened and closed during the pandemic. The aim of this paper is to provide a specific snapshot of COVID-19 impacts on social cohesion in gay communities.

This phase-one paper explores the question: How did the COVID-19 pandemic impact institutions that contribute to gay social capital in NSW? The nature of social capital in gay-related spaces in NSW is looked at by providing new data through a content analysis of Facebook and media stories regarding the opening and closing of 56 gay and gay-related social venues in the Greater Sydney region of NSW. In subsequent phases of research, we hope to expand this study by incorporating more hidden elements to include community consultations and a broad-based public survey.

Importantly, this small study constitutes previously unknown data on a marginalised population and makes a contribution by shedding new light on the impact of COVID-19 on local gay communities in NSW.

## Findings

- **NSW's gay communities highlight the stunning success of people and groups to rebound following the worst pandemic in 100 years.** For this paper, 56 bars, venues, and events that support the gay communities were reviewed to establish the duration of their closures during the COVID-19. The data from this analysis shows an overall re-opening rate of 93% of businesses. Six of the 56 venues and events reviewed were permanently closed while two new events had opened. There was a total net loss of 4 venues and events, representing only a 7% decline.
- **Gay bars, venues, and events appear to have a slightly lower growth trend with disparity to the overall NSW trend for businesses.** While the 7% decline in gay-related businesses reviewed for this paper is moderate in nature, it stands in contrast to the nearly 11% growth rate that NSW nighttime venues experienced since the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the 4.6% growth rate specifically for drinking venues in NSW is also inconsistent with the data from gay bars.
- **Regional gay communities appear to have fewer resources and were slower at reopening.** To look at differences across regions, the time period for closures were reviewed. Our data found that 40% of businesses with the longest delays in re-opening following the COVID-19 lockdown in 2021 were located in regional communities, while 17 of 18 of the shortest closures (94%) were located in inner Sydney.

# Introduction

LGBTIQ+ spaces have been central to community-building and social cohesion for decades in NSW. This is valuable because communities with greater levels of social capital and cohesion have greater resilience from threats, such as COVID-19. This paper looks at the effects of COVID-19 on gay social capital, by analysing the way lockdowns of gay bars, restaurants, party nights and social events have impacted the ongoing social and economic health of these marginalised communities.

This preliminary analysis of social capital focuses on the length of time a venue or event was closed due to COVID-19. Delays in re-opening represent an important variable when considering the impacts of COVID-19 on gay communities in NSW. Our data for this paper has revealed the shortest closure was 105 days (for Tropical Fruits in Lismore) and the longest at 986 days (for the Rainbow on the Plains social event in Hay).

To address the shifting nature of gay spaces, this paper reports on gay bars and events that have 'opened' or 'closed' specifically between 2019 and 2022, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. To gather this data, we have collated 56 data points from Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, company websites, and media reporting.

## Gay social capital in NSW

Social capital plays a central role in providing a lens to this research. It conveys an understanding of who is privileged in social dynamics and who is not. Social capital is useful to illustrate the perspective of one marginalised community and potential impacts on groups that survive on the margins of the margins. Putnam (1995: 67) defines social capital as "features of social organization such as networks, norms, and social trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit." This suggests greater social connectedness produces a more resilient society. Thus, social networks with high levels of social capital are better off than communities with less social capital (King & Cronin, 2013). This raises the question as to which communities are designed to recover from social or economic struggle and which are not. We argue that this fellowship and dynamic of chosen families in LGBTIQ+ communities is consistent with gay bars, venues, and events in Sydney and NSW.

The connectedness of an LGBTIQ+ community produces emotional solidarity and trust which can be used to activate issues and causes. This may include electing a local official, creating safe areas to walk home, supporting a local LGBTIQ-owned business, attending festivals, or providing access to HIV treatment.

Social capital related to gay communities in NSW has several implications. For instance, there are intersectional effects because gay social capital identifies groups that receive less social, economic and political support, as well as those who may be rendered vulnerable based on identity (Crenshaw, 1991). Social capital is an asset designed to benefit some and not others. Rural, trans and gender diverse, First Nations, people are structurally denied access to the social resources that are freely available to gay, cis, white men. It is harder for them to shop, get clothes, obtain an appropriate driver's license, get/keep a job, and use public bathrooms. All of these administrative burdens push trans and gender diverse people out of society and away from the fellowship, trust, and civic engagement that produces social infrastructure to support daily life.

An analysis of closures of dedicated gay and gay-friendly spaces in NSW during COVID-19 is important because it begs the questions: Is it the same for a bar to close but a Pride parade to commence? What does it mean if more Pride events are starting, given the reliance on corporate sponsorships to fund these events? Is the community going from a gay, white, cis, male space to one that is simultaneously more corporate and diverse? Who is given space to form communities, organisations, and businesses? As a result, who has access to the social capital that is used to mobilise groups and provide resources to improve lives?

Critically, social capital conveys an understanding of who is privileged in social dynamics and who is not. As a framework, it illustrates the perspectives of one marginalised community and outlines potential impacts on groups that survive on the margins of the margins.

Applying the concept of social capital to the NSW context during COVID-19 within Sydney's gay community, bars were a priority in re-opening. Bars can redistribute power. However, a bar is more than "something that you go to" to create meaning. Instead, it is a place where the existing connections between participants can create a resource that is restrictive to others. Someone may go to the bar, but this does not necessarily provide them access to social capital. Gaining social capital requires the individual to connect to social norms before they are invited or accepted as a member in the community.

These variables illustrate the complex intersections between a *community of fellows* (relatable people), in a *geographic space*, and during a *period of time*. They build upon Kerry Drysdale's analysis of the drag king scene in Sydney, Australia. Drysdale (2015: 346) notes the role of the "scene" in building a social community, stating that "the usefulness of the concept of scene lies in its flexibility and capacity to capture the peripheral energies and relationships that exist around visible subcultures, communities or neo-tribes." In this paper, the "scene" is based on geography and temporality. This is an important concept for considering broader LGBTIQ+ social capital, as a function of relationships and political investment from bars, cafes, and restaurants serving different communities of people.

This paper moves forward by highlighting the methods for data collection, findings from the study, and presents some concluding thoughts.

# Methods and Analysis

The initial venue list was collected by searching for lists of dedicated gay and gay-friendly spaces in Sydney. The search was then expanded to include Wollongong, the Central Coast and rural NSW. From this initial list, any mention of other venues was researched and added to the list in a snowball method. Additionally, closures specifically were found through a search of the terms “closed”/ “opened” and “bar”/ “bookshop”/ “café” etc. and “gay” or “lesbian” or “transgender” or “queer” in ProQuest and Google News. While this design is limited in nature, it represents a small-n first effort at data collection for a unique and original data set. We recognise some data points will fall outside this study’s parameters and updates will be made accordingly.

**Table 1. Types of Venues and Events Examined**

Venue/Event Types	Number examined	Percentage
Bars/Nightclubs	22	39%
Party Nights	11	20%
Sex on Premises Venues	7	12%
Social Events	5	9%
Performance Art	4	7%
Pride	4	7%
Protests	1	2%
Organisation	1	2%
Bookstore	1	2%
	56	100%

For this paper, June 26 – October 11, 2021, is used as a baseline reference to reflect the lockdowns in the greater Sydney area, as most of the studied venues were located there. It has been acknowledged if a venue had different lockdown dates or their reopening was delayed.

The days the venue was closed have been recorded, as well as the number of days the venue was delayed from the October 11 state-wide reopening. In some cases, events specifically, did not occur throughout the pandemic and their ‘days closed’ can cover years. They were recorded based on their last held event and the reopening as their next scheduled event as of January 2023. This primarily affected events, such as Pride festivals across NSW. Where a permanent venue closure occurred, the closure date and any indicated justification for the closure were recorded. Lockdown closure dates and adaptations were identified primarily by social media posts by venues on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. In some cases, especially sex on premises venues (SOPVs), re-openings were the subject of news reporting.

The last COVID-19 lockdown in Sydney and NSW ended on October 11, 2021. This analysis looked at the closing and opening of 56 venues in NSW. There were divided into nine categories including: 22 *bars and nightclubs* such as Stonewall, Universal, and the Oxford Hotel; 11 *party nights*, including Poof Doof and Kooky; five categorised social events; seven SOPVs such as Sydney Sauna, Trade, and Bodyline; four pride events from Paramatta to Newcastle; four performance exhibitions including *Queers of Joy* and *Queerborhood* and events at the Red Rattler in Marrickville. There are also smaller-scale items, including one organisation, the Naughty Noodle Fun House on the Central Coast and one bookstore, Bookshop Darlinghurst.



**Table 2. NSW Venues and Events Opening Timeline (days) by Category**

	105-110	111-150	151-200	201-300	301-400	401-1000	Closed	Open	
Bars/Nightclubs	14	3	1	0	0	1	3		22
Party Nights	3	4	0	1	1	1	1		11
Social Events	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	5
Sex on Premises Venues	0	5	0	0	0	1	1		7
Pride	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	4
Performance Art	0	1	1	1	1	0	0		4
Protests	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		1
Organisation	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		1
Bookstore	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		1
Total	18	13	4	2	4	7	6		56

Of the 56 venues examined, six closed permanently during the COVID-19 pandemic period and two events opened in 2022. Based on the data, this represents a 7% decline in the gay community's material and social assets. These closings included (1) Signal, (2) Slide, (3) The Slyfox, (4) Green Park Hotel, (5) Sydney Hellfire Club, and (6) the Wollongong Queer Arts Festival. There are two important notes about the closing of the Slyfox in particular. First, it was a lesbian bar that played a central role in the lesbian and drag king community for two decades. It is not possible to quantify such a large loss for this community. Secondly, though the Slyfox falls into the COVID-19 window there were other issues, including licensing of the venue that played a role in its closing.

The openings included Far South Coast Rainbow Waves Festival (Bega Valley) and Summer Camp Festival, which launched in Sydney in November 2022. In addition, several venues recently announced they were reopening at the end of 2022, including Arq and Bodyline. This constitutes a (93%) reopening rate for those gay venues and events in NSW that were reviewed.

To report on the duration a venue was closed, we divided the timeline up into six sections. We see that 18 venues were closed for 105-110 days which amounts to 32% of the 56 venues or events with measurable and comparable data. In addition, 13 venues were closed 111-150 days (23%), and four were closed 151-200 days (7%). Two venues and events between 201-300 days (4%). Four venues between 301-400 days (7%). Seven venues or events were closed for more than 400 days closed (12%). Our research found that two new gay-related events opened during this period. Thus, the 7% decline is a net-decline of gay venues and events, which we use to make preliminary comparisons to the net-growth of overall NSW nightlife business below.

# Findings

## **Finding #1: NSW's gay communities highlight the stunning success of people and groups to rebound following the worst pandemic in 100 years.**

The responses of gay communities to COVID-19 in NSW is a success story. The number of venue and event closings (7%) demonstrate the resilience of gay communities during COVID-19 and suggests a high degree of cooperative investment with the NSW Government. Together, these gay communities' efforts with the Federal Government's JobKeeper program (Box 2), and the NSW Government's COVID-19 economic relief payments (Box 1), the communities in the City of Sydney was sustained. Indeed, we argue that these investments helped maintain a certain degree of social capital, connectedness, and trust. In November 2021 the State Government noted the Government, "is expected to have unilaterally provided over \$8 billion in direct support to businesses and individuals, including through the JobSaver program and its contribution to Commonwealth Disaster Payments."

This 7% decline in NSW stands in stark contrast to the steady deterioration and average trend in other LGBTIQ+ communities, such as those in the United States. The literature references the decline in LGBTIQ+ bars in the U.S. Mattson (2019) uses data from the Damron Guide, the U.S. national travel guidebook of LGBTIQ+ spaces, to determine a 36.6% decline in gay bars between 2007 and 2019, including a 51.9% decline in lesbian bar listings, a 59.3% decline in cruisy men's bar listings, and a 59.3% decline in listings for people of colour. Eric Gonzaba and Amanda Regan have also used the Damron Guide to map the LGBTIQ+ nightlife scene in a project entitled "Mapping the Gay Guides" (Ducharme, 2020).

## **Finding #2: Gay bars, venues, and events appear to have a slightly lower growth trend with disparity to the overall NSW trend for businesses.**

Nightlife in NSW grew overall in major cities consistently with rebound effects from the COVID-19 pandemic starting in 2021. According to the Lord Mayors *Measuring the Australian Nighttime Economy 2020-21* report, which tracks the drinking, entertainment, and food industries performance, whilst employment and turnover had not yet recovered to pre-pandemic levels, the number of establishments had risen in both 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Between 2019-20 and 2020-21, NSW was above the national average of 8.4% growth in establishments, hitting 10.6% with just over 4,000 new nighttime venues. This followed the much weaker growth of '18/19 to '20/21, where only around 500 new establishments were added. This strong growth was driven by the food (9.6%) and entertainment (7.0%) sectors, with drinking venues (4.6%) slower but still positive. In the City of Sydney, "the city gained 60 drink establishments in 2020/21 (+10%). While employment had not recovered to pre-pandemic 2018/19 levels by June 2021 (-15%), sales turnover had (+3%)."

This NSW data stands in contrast to the experiences of gay communities (7% decline) based on the scope of the data collected through the pandemic. Whilst state and national averages were growing, in comparison businesses and events that serve gay communities underperformed against the overall trend, shrinking in both 2019-20 and 2020-21. Gay bars and events appear to have been more vulnerable to the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, with more closures during the lockdowns and a slower regrowth after, which is out of step with the 10.6% growth rate of establishments seen in NSW. Some of this is perhaps attributable to the prevalence of more gay drinking and entertainment venues than restaurants. Establishments that serve food showed the strongest growth of all three sub-sectors.

### **Finding #3: Regional gay communities appear to have fewer resources and were slower to reopen.**

The data gathered from the 56 venues and events suggests a prioritisation of inner-city Sydney venues and the need for greater support in regional communities in NSW. First, there are fewer resources, venues, and events in the regions, which means that consequently any reduction of a venue or event can have a dramatic impact on a local and regional communities. For instance, changes to the Winsome Hotel in Lismore through the middle to late 2000's had an impact on broader LGBTIQ+ communities. Secondly, the emphasis on Pride related festivals in Hay, Newcastle, Broken Hill, Penrith and the Central Coast tells us something about the importance of resourcing these particular events for community-building as well as future directions for investment to sustain these events and build resilience in the future.

Indeed, there appears to be a disproportionate impact on the closure length for remote and regional venues and events in NSW. For instance, four of 10 (40%) of the most prolonged closures were in remote and regional NSW, including Hay (986 days), Newcastle Pride (784 days), Broken Hill's Broken Heel Festival (364 days), Paramatta Pride (415 days) and Penrith Pride Place (355 days). However, it is important to note that many of these events are annual events so the time period between their occurrence would regularly be 365 days. And yet, this is important because cataloguing the types of delay is as important as the type of venues and event. Rural and remote communities sustain themselves in uniquely local ways and this data captures just a small piece of this: a delay effect that was large, annual, and community wide.

**Table 3. NSW Gay Venues and Events Opening Timeline**

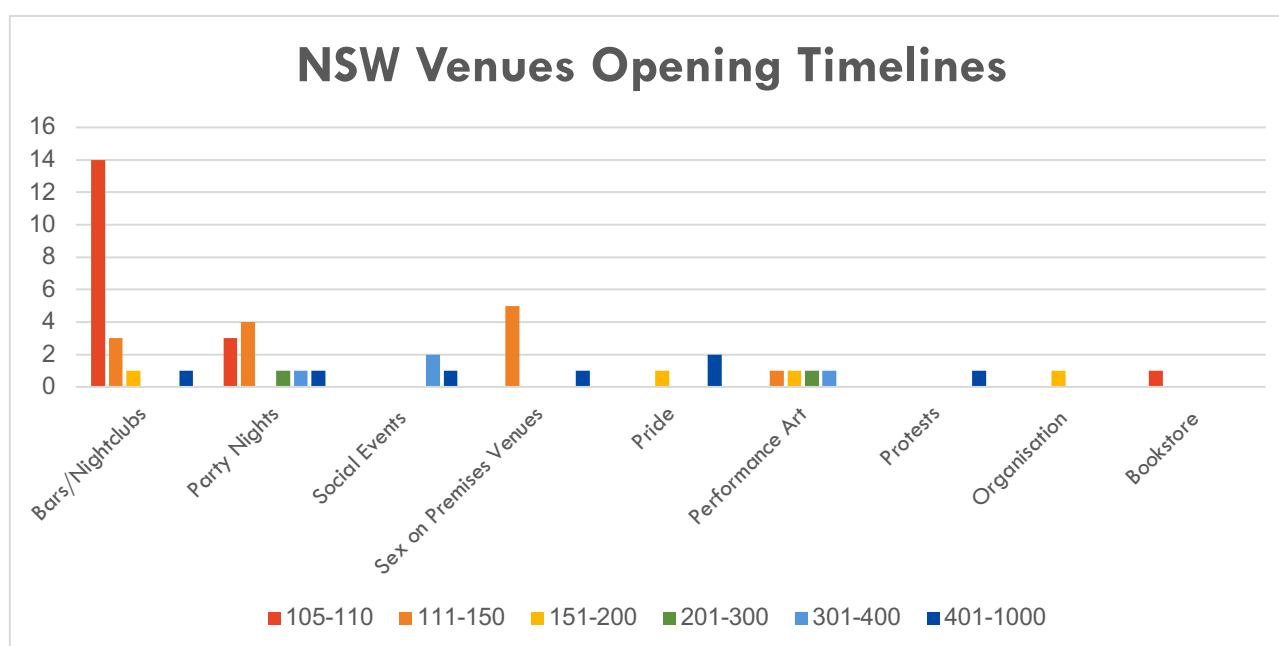


Table 3 highlights the distribution of venues based on opening times. Of the venues with the shortest closures (105-110 days), 17 of the 18 locations or 94% are in inner Sydney. In addition, 14 of 18 of the venues and events that opened within 105-110 days were bars or pubs (78%). These included the Burdekin Hotel, Gingers, Newtown Hotel, The Bearded Tit, Oxford Underground, Polo Lounge, The Bank, The Colombian Hotel, The Oxford Hotel, Universal, Coopers Hotel, Kinselas, Beresford Hotel, and the Imperial Hotel. Three were party nights, including Poof Doof, which re-emerged on the scene, and one business opening was the Bookshop Darlinghurst. In the second batch of opening venues (111-150 days), there are 13 venues, five of which are SOPV locations (38% of the second batch), four party nights (31%), and three bars (23%).

Access to social capital is unevenly distributed (Edwards & Foley 1997: 672). This may include location, finances, institutional structures, social norms that grant access to social capital, and access to universities. For instance, going online to participate in a community requires a computer, an internet connection, and the ability to pay for internet access. Bars may require access to a car, money for gas, being over 16 to drive, over 18 to drink, and money for food or drinks. These elements presume a degree of wealth, ability, and technology, which are not present in many people's lives. Gay bars are, therefore, spaces that also distribute power.

Lastly, this data identifies regional communities that are more disadvantaged in their ability to cope with losses. Communities with access to social infrastructure tailored to them are often more resilient (Putnam, 2000). For instance, bars, community centres, newspapers, organisations, and businesses provide resources and fellowship that help groups rebound after a period of difficult, such as COVID-19.

**Box 1. NSW Government COVID-19 Relief Packages and Total Investment\***

Alfresco Restart Rebate, \$7 million  
Return to Work grant, \$7 million  
Export assistance grant, \$10 million  
Northern Beaches small business hardship grant (2021), \$12 million  
Southern Border small business support grant (2020), \$15 million  
Stay NSW Vouchers, \$47 million  
Test and Isolate support payment, \$92 million  
2022 Small business support grant, \$100 million  
\$3,000 small business recovery grant (2020), \$109 million  
Small business fees and charges rebate, \$228 million  
\$10,000 small business support grant (2020), \$521 million  
Dine & Discover NSW vouchers, \$587 million  
COVID-19 micro-business grant (2021), \$781 million  
COVID-19 business grant (2021), \$2.4 billion  
JobSaver payments, \$7 billion

\*Full list available at: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/>

**Box 2. Australian Government JobKeeper explainer**

JobKeeper was part of the Australian Government's economic response to COVID-19. The Treasury describes JobKeeper as "a wage subsidy program to support employees and businesses...designed to help businesses affected by the COVID-19 to cover the costs of their employees' wages, so that more employees can retain their job and continue to earn an income" (Department of the Treasury, 2020). Under JobKeeper, wage subsidies were available to companies and not-for-profits adversely affected by the pandemic so that businesses and the self-employed could continue getting paid despite lockdowns. Businesses were required to pay their employees the full JobKeeper amount, \$1500 per fortnight, even if the employee had not undertaken any work, after which the eligible business was reimbursed by the Australian Tax Office (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2021).

After the end of JobKeeper, economic assistance in response to COVID-19 shifted to two new income support systems. The COVID-19 Disaster Payment was for those affected by COVID-19-related lockdowns. The Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment was for individuals directed to self-isolate or quarantine due to exposure or contracting the virus. These payments began on June 3, 2021 and covered the NSW lockdowns and the end timeframe of this dataset (Klapdor & Lotric, 2022).

## Conclusion

This Policy Paper has examined a small portion of capital infrastructure to provide a snapshot regarding the impact of COVID-19 on gay social capital in NSW. We have built on the existing literature, which points to trust, social connectedness, and civic infrastructure. Social capital is also about the redistribution of power. Therefore, social capital must consider the ways political investments may preference one community over another. We see that venues and organisations are most often designed for white, cis, male, English-speaking people who are not living with a disability.

In all, we posit that the above results on which spaces had opened and closed represent the factors that constitute social capital. Yet, not all venues or events that open or close are created equal. Many in the greater Sydney area still feel the effects from the closure of the Taxi Club drag bar, which opened in 1957 and closed in 2011. The Taxi Club was an institution and resource of LGBTIQ+ communities. Indeed, Marschall (2015: 596) states that “if we are to devise policies and devote public (or private) resources to stimulating the development of social capital, it is important to have a more accurate understanding of which interactions are most productive.”

Future research should examine the reasons for the closings and lack of new LGBTIQ+ spaces—particularly the closure of physical spaces and the diffusion of LGBTIQ+ communities—in this timeframe. It is also important to have clearer sense of how these venues and events provide or deny access, particularly to those living with a disability. Bars with stairs (but no elevators) are one example. With further investigation, we can better understand the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health measures, and together find the best ways to help people and communities thrive.

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# Appendix

**Table 4. Venue Behavior During COVID-19 in NSW by Category**

<b>LGBTQI Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Time Closed</b>
Burdekin Hotel	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	107
Gingers	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	107
Newtown Hotel	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	107
Oxford Underground	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	107
Polo Lounge	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	107
The Bank	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	107
The Colombian Hotel	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	107
The Oxford Hotel	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	107
Universal Club	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	107
Coopers Hotel	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	107
Kinselas	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	107
Ching-A-Lings	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	108
Beresford Hotel	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	108
Imperial Hotel Erskinvill	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	109
The Beared Tit	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	123
The Beacham	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	126
Stonewall Hotel	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	130
Palms on Oxford	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	169
Arq	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	723
Slide	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	CLOSED
Slyfox	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	CLOSED
The Green Park Hotel	Bar/Nightclub	Sydney	CLOSED
The Bookshop	Book Store	Sydney	107
Naughty Noodle Fun House	Organisation	Central Coast	161
Tropical Fruits New Year's Eve	Party Night	Lismore	105
Honcho Disko	Party Night	Sydney	106
Poof Doof Sydney	Party Night	Sydney	109
Birdcage	Party Night	Sydney	123
House of Mince	Party Night	Sydney	138
Tropical Fruits Fruity Fridays	Party Night	Lismore	140
ThursGAY	Party Night	Gosford	141
Heaps Gay	Party Night	Sydney	213
Club Kooky	Party Night	Sydney	303
Unicorns	Party Night	Sydney	449
The Sydney Hellfire Club	Party Night	Sydney	CLOSED

Queerbourhood	Performance Art	Sydney	137
Red Rattler	Performance Art	Sydney	159
Queerstories	Performance Art	Sydney	232
Queers of Joy	Performance Art	Sydney	303
Costal Twist Festival	Pride	Central Coast	189
Paramatta Pride Picnic	Pride	Sydney	415
Newcastle Pride	Pride	Newcastle	784
Far South Coast Rainbow Wave Festival	Pride	Bega Valley	NEW
Trans Day of Remembrance	Protest/Funeral	Sydney	513
Trade Club	Sex on Premises	Sydney	111
The Kastle	Sex on Premises	Sydney	114
357 Sauna	Sex on Premises	Sydney	135
Sydney Sauna	Sex on Premises	Sydney	135
Aarows	Sex on Premises	Sydney	142
Bodyline Sauna	Sex on Premises	Sydney	897
Signal	Sex on Premises	Sydney	CLOSED
Penrith Pride Place	Social Event	Penrith	355
Broken Heel Festival	Social Event	Broken Hill	364
Rainbow on the Plains	Social Event	Hay	986
Queer Arts Festival	Social Event	Wollongong	CLOSED
Summer Camp Festival	Social Event	Sydney	NEW

## Contact

This document has been prepared by Dr. Chris Pepin-Neff, co-authors Dr. Laura Welty, Mr. Ben Ormerod and Dr. Juliet Bennett, and the support of the Sydney Policy Lab. We are available to assist policymakers, industry, community leaders and others with these discussions and are eager to play a part. Please contact us at [policy.lab@sydney.edu.au](mailto:policy.lab@sydney.edu.au) for more information.

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