# How do we feel about all-male spaces? And age limits in clubs?



A new Sydney nightclub named Pink Pony, inspired by Chappell Roan’s queer anthem Pink Pony Club, has sparked considerable controversy due to its exclusive focus on gay men aged 18 to 35. Despite the club’s founders positioning it as a space for gay men to find belonging, many voices within the broader queer community have criticised the club for its gender and sexuality restrictions — particularly as the choice of the name borrows from a song celebrated for its inclusivity.

Pink Pony was announced online with references to Roan’s song, which champions freedom, fluidity, and belonging for all genders and sexualities. However, excitement quickly turned to disappointment when organisers confirmed via social media that entry would be limited to a very specific demographic: gay men aged between 18 and 35. This restriction prompted an outcry across various platforms including Instagram, TikTok, and queer forums such as Heaps Gay, where hundreds argued the club’s approach contradicted the spirit of the song. One user highlighted the discord between the club’s policy and the lyrics that celebrate a space 'where boys and girls can all be queens every single day.' Commentators pointed out Sydney’s queer nightlife scene is already heavily skewed towards spaces centred on gay men, amplifying perceptions that venues for other identities remain marginalised.

In response to criticisms, Pink Pony’s CEO Michael Lewis expressed disappointment but defended the club’s focus, framing it as a straightforward business decision targeting a particular demographic rather than an act of exclusion. Speaking to QNews, Lewis noted that both he and co-founder Kevin Du-Val, who also owns other venues such as Palms, drew inspiration from their own experiences seeking community within gay male spaces. Lewis also acknowledged the feedback and conceded that the organisers could have communicated their intentions with more care. Yet, despite the backlash, the club has not announced any changes either to its entry policy or its use of the Pink Pony name, which remains a sticking point for many who feel the choice undermines the inclusivity Roan’s anthem represents.

The controversy is not isolated in Sydney’s nightlife scene, where other venues like the Birdcage Club have introduced policies to preserve safe and welcoming spaces for lesbian, trans, queer, and non-binary individuals by requesting patrons refrain from bringing cisgender straight men. Such measures have been broadly embraced on social media as necessary steps to protect underrepresented groups within the LGBTQ+ spectrum. This context underscores the complexity of managing inclusive queer spaces in a nightlife market often dominated by gay male-focused establishments.

The Pink Pony club will open its doors in December at 231 Oxford Street, Paddington, positioning itself as a fresh entrant in Sydney’s nightlife circuit. Despite the heated debate surrounding its entry policy and branding, the venue’s organisers maintain that their aim is to serve the gay community and provide a space for celebration and belonging. Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://gayexpress.co.nz/2025/10/gay-men-only-sydneys-pink-pony-club-faces-backlash-for-gay-male-only-policy/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=gay-men-only-sydneys-pink-pony-club-faces-backlash-for-gay-male-only-policy> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.pedestrian.tv/news/pink-pony-gay-club-sydney-backlash/> - Sydney's new gay bar, Pink Pony, has faced backlash after owner Kevin Du-Val stated the venue would predominantly cater to gay men aged 18 to 35. Critics argue that this focus excludes other members of the queer community, including lesbian women. The club's name, inspired by Chappell Roan's song 'Pink Pony Club,' has also been questioned, as Roan is a publicly out lesbian. Du-Val acknowledged the criticism but emphasized the club's intention to serve the gay community. Despite the controversy, the venue is set to open in December at 231 Oxford Street, Paddington.
3. <https://www.inkl.com/news/sydney-bar-pink-pony-responds-to-backlash-over-unashamedly-preferring-gay-male-patrons> - Pink Pony, a new gay bar in Sydney, has responded to backlash over its preference for gay male patrons aged 18 to 35. Owner Kevin Du-Val stated that while the club welcomes all, it aims to predominantly serve gay men. Critics, including Sydney drag queen Etcetera Etcetera, have questioned the club's focus and its name, inspired by Chappell Roan's song 'Pink Pony Club.' Du-Val acknowledged the criticism but emphasized the club's intention to serve the gay community. The venue is set to open in December at 231 Oxford Street, Paddington.
4. <https://gaysydneynews.com.au/news/what-to-expect-at-pink-pony-the-new-gay-club-from-the-owner-of-palms/> - Pink Pony, a new gay club in Sydney, is set to open in December at 231 Oxford Street, Paddington. The venue is owned by Kevin Du-Val, who also owns Palms. The club aims to serve the gay community, with a focus on gay men aged 18 to 35. The name 'Pink Pony' is inspired by Chappell Roan's song 'Pink Pony Club.' The venue is set to open in December at 231 Oxford Street, Paddington.
5. <https://gaysydneynews.com.au/news/gay-pink-pony-club-coming-to-flashs-old-digs-in-december/> - Pink Pony, a new gay club in Sydney, is set to open in December at 231 Oxford Street, Paddington. The venue is owned by Kevin Du-Val, who also owns Palms. The club aims to serve the gay community, with a focus on gay men aged 18 to 35. The name 'Pink Pony' is inspired by Chappell Roan's song 'Pink Pony Club.' The venue is set to open in December at 231 Oxford Street, Paddington.
6. <https://www.thepinktimes.com/birdcage-club-in-sydney-introduces-policy-to-preserve-lgbtq-space/> - Birdcage Club in Sydney has updated its door policy to preserve its LGBTQ+ space, requesting patrons to refrain from bringing cis straight men. The organizers emphasized the club's origins as a mid-week lesbian party and its evolution into a cherished gathering spot for femmes, queers, trans individuals, and non-binary people. This proactive step has been met with widespread appreciation and support on social media, with patrons expressing relief at the new policy.