



Report

Auckland Regional Alcohol Planning Forum

2^d June, 2011

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This report represents the proceedings and discussions from the Auckland Regional Alcohol Planning Forum held on the 2nd of June, 2011 at Alexandra Park, Auckland.

Alcohol Healthwatch would like to acknowledge the following people for their participation and assistance with the forum:

Councillor George Wood, Auckland Council – Opening address

Michael Sinclair, Auckland Council – Presentation

Thomas Strickland, Hapai Te Hauora Tapui Ltd – Mihi & Karakia

Jean Cathcart, Auckland Council – Administration Support

The forum planning team: Michael Sinclair, Antonia Butler and Belinda Hansen (Auckland Council), Nicki Jackson and Kristel Modderman (Auckland Regional Public Health Service), Thomas Strickland (Hapai Te Hauora Tapui Ltd), Cathy Bruce and Andrew Galloway (Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand), and Rebecca Williams and Amy Robinson (Alcohol Healthwatch)

The workshop facilitators: Cathy Bruce, Nicki Jackson, Dickie Humphries, Christine Rogan, Kristel Modderman, Rachel Orr, Antonia Butler, Belinda Hansen and Amy Robinson

We would also like to make special thanks to all of the participants who attended the forum and who willingly shared their knowledge and experience.

Executive summary

This report outlines the discussions and findings from the Auckland Regional Alcohol Planning Forum that was held on June 2nd, 2011.

Auckland Council is currently developing their alcohol framework, consolidating the bylaws and carrying out the research phase to further their alcohol planning. The main purpose of the forum was to support and inform the Auckland Council with these activities. The forum was also beneficial in that it provided an opportunity for people working in the alcohol harm reduction sector to share ideas and possible solutions, it helped inform other agencies on strategies and priority areas for future work, and it offered an opportunity for liaison between the Auckland Council and alcohol harm reduction agencies.

Ninety people attended the forum and a wide range of sectors were represented.

Following a mihi and karakia from Thomas Strickland of Hapai Te Hauora Tapui, Councillor George Wood provided the opening address for the forum. Rebecca Williams, Director of Alcohol Healthwatch then confirmed the agenda and the purpose of the forum, and provided some context for the day. Michael Sinclair, Principal Policy Analyst for Community and Cultural Policy at the Auckland Council was the final speaker before the workshops began. His presentation explained the new structure of the Council and gave details about the development of the Alcohol Programme and Framework.

For the workshops, the participants were grouped into sector groups such as Community Action/Health Promotion, Policy and Planning, Community Safety, Social Services, Licensing and Enforcement and Treatment/Addictions/Intervention. Local Board members, researchers and community members who attended were asked to join sector groups that were of interest to them. Facilitators took each group through a number of workshops throughout the day which canvassed the following issues:

- Key alcohol related harms and issues for Auckland
- What is happening in our region in response to these issues
- What is working well, things we could do differently, and opportunities to reduce alcohol related harm
- Our vision for what a liveable city would look like in 30 years, in relation to alcohol, and
- Moving forward – Priorities, strategies and objectives for the next three years.

After each workshop, the facilitators fed back the three most important points of discussion that were expressed by their sector group to the wider group. Facilitator completed worksheets during each workshop session. After the forum these worksheets were transcribed, and an analysis was undertaken by members of the Alcohol Healthwatch team in order to pull out key issues, themes and discussion points. These are included in the following report along with some discussion and recommendations for moving forward.

Key findings from the forum include the following:

- There is strong commitment and energy within the alcohol harm reduction sector to focus on solutions – we are past selling the problem. An improvement in cohesiveness, collaboration, communication, consistency and coordination within the sector and also with the Auckland Council is a focus.
- A number of sector groups believed that the Auckland Council need to take leadership nationally in advocating to central government for effective public policy to reduce alcohol-related harm.
- All sector groups reported similar alcohol-related issues and harms. The most commonly reported issues included ready-to-drink alcohol products, the accessibility of alcohol particularly for young people, the proliferation of alcohol advertising, the number of liquor outlets in communities, the normalisation of alcohol and heavy drinking in society, and alcohol-related violence.
- A range of programmes to reduce alcohol-related harm are happening across the region and nationally but it was felt that they are currently operating in silos. While there are some pockets of effective collaboration happening, such as in the enforcement and liquor licensing area, it was felt that collaboration could be improved through the continuum of sector groups. Current programmes and projects cover a diverse range of audiences and predominantly use an educative approach. Additionally, social marketing, advocacy, lobbying, awareness building, and enforcement/monitoring strategies are implemented, but to a much lesser extent. There was little evidence to demonstrate that formal evaluation of programmes had been completed, however this may be due to groups not having the time to consider this information fully during the workshops.
- There were various opportunities identified by sector groups for work to move forward. These included further collaboration between the alcohol harm reduction sector and the Auckland Council, increasing local data collection and intelligence, supporting the Auckland Council to be bold and take the lead with alcohol harm reduction measures and advocate to central government for good legislation, supporting more local initiatives, activities and programmes that are alcohol and drug free, improving processes and systematic structures in the alcohol harm reduction sector to achieve effective outcomes, improving integrated planning, and moving past talking about the problem and implementing some solutions to decrease alcohol-related harm.

Overall, feedback from the participants and facilitators at the forum was very positive and confirmed that the forum achieved its purpose as well as satisfying the participants' expectations.

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1. Introduction

Auckland – the world’s most liveable city by 2041...

Vibrant but safe... prosperous and thriving communities free from alcohol-related harm... an entertainment hub without alcohol as its emphasis... a city that does not see public drunkenness as a normal occurrence... a city where inequalities stemming from alcohol are non-existent... a meaningful, solution-focused city where alcohol is not the first or most attractive option...

These are some of the expectations forum participants have for Auckland, in relation to alcohol, when it reaches its goal of being the world’s most liveable city by 2041. It is useful to have these long term ideals in mind when we are planning for alcohol harm reduction.

The following report conveys the key findings from the regional alcohol planning forum and subsequent to this, outlines suggestions for how Auckland can achieve its vision while contributing to the collaborative goal of reducing alcohol-related harm.

The main aim of the regional alcohol planning forum was to support and inform the Auckland Council on planning for alcohol harm reduction. Currently, the Auckland Council is developing their alcohol framework, consolidating the bylaws and carrying out the research phase to further their alcohol planning. The forum was also beneficial in that it provided an opportunity for people working in the alcohol harm reduction sector to share ideas and possible solutions, it helped inform other agencies on strategies and priority areas for future work, and it offered an opportunity for liaison between Auckland Council and alcohol harm reduction agencies.

2. Methodology

The forum was planned by Alcohol Healthwatch in collaboration with the Auckland Council, Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand (ALAC), Auckland Regional Public Health Service and Hapai Te Hauora Tapui Ltd.

Following a mihi and karakia by Thomas Strickland of Hapai Te Hauora Tapui Ltd, the forum began with an opening address by Councillor George Wood. Rebecca Williams, Director of Alcohol Healthwatch, then confirmed the agenda, spoke about the purpose of the day, and provided some context for the day’s discussions; particularly focusing on the opportunities that the proposed Alcohol Reform Bill presents, for example in the area of local alcohol policy. Michael Sinclair, Principal Policy Analyst for Community and Cultural Policy at the Auckland Council, was the final speaker before the workshops began. His presentation explained the new structure of the council and gave details about their Alcohol Programme and Framework. The full agenda is shown in Appendix A.

To achieve the aims of the forum, participants were placed into sector groups relative to their area of interest or work. Approximately ninety people attended the forum and came from a variety of sectors including community safety, treatment/addictions/intervention, health promotion/community action,

social services, planning/policy, and licensing and enforcement. Researchers, community members and local board members were also in attendance. A list of the agencies that were present at the forum is included in Appendix B.

The following issues were canvassed in workshop sessions throughout the day:

- Key alcohol-related harms and issues for Auckland
- What is happening in our region in response to these issues
- What is working well, things we could do differently, and opportunities to reduce alcohol harm
- Our vision for what a liveable city would look like in 30 years, in relation to alcohol
- Moving forward - Priorities, strategies and objectives for the next 3 years.

After each workshop, the groups would come together and each facilitator would feedback the top three discussion points from their group to the wider audience. This allowed participants and facilitators to know what the other groups had discussed and common themes could be extracted in a timely manner.

Being grouped by sector meant that distinct themes emerged from each session. There were also a number of common themes across the groups, particularly around the future roles that Auckland Council could play in reducing alcohol harm and systematic ideas for how the sector as a whole can progress.

Post forum, the planning team had an informal debrief at the end of the day to discuss what worked well, what did not and other thoughts they had about the day. The session worksheets were then transcribed by the author of this report. This data was analysed for key themes, and areas of importance were highlighted to assist the Auckland Council's planning. Please also note that the interpretation and analysis of the data from the forum that is included in this report has been carried out by members of the Alcohol Healthwatch team. The draft report was circulated amongst the members of the forum planning team for comment, and the feedback received was incorporated into the final document as appropriate.

3. Structure of the report

This report will include summaries of the key points that were drawn from the workshops, a discussion section and conclusions, the next steps for the alcohol harm reduction sector, and the results from the participant's evaluations of the forum. The workshop summaries include the key alcohol-related issues and harms identified by the sector groups, an environmental analysis of the alcohol sector, and moving forward.

4. Summary of the key alcohol-related harms and issues in Auckland

Groups recognised similar harms and issues; those that were frequently mentioned are shown in the matrix below.

Table 1: Alcohol Issues and Harms in Auckland

The Drinking/Alcohol (Product)	Setting/Environment
*Ready-to-drinks Excessive consumption/binge drinking Pre-loading Cheapness of alcohol Drinking in public places Poor role-modeling General acceptance of drinking being acceptable (normalised) Tailoring of products to young people	*Accessibility *Alcohol advertising, especially that which normalises alcohol e.g. on back of school buses *Number of liquor outlets in community *Alcohol/heavy drinking is normalised in society Alcohol placement and positioning in supermarkets Youth drinking in public places Drinking in risky settings Social supply of alcohol to youth under 18 Sponsorship Liquor outlets in low income areas Dairies selling alcohol Association between alcohol and sport
The Outcomes (Health/Social)	The System/Policy
*Domestic & family violence Crime Alcohol related hospital admissions Mental illness Car crashes Increase in chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, cirrhosis Abuse – emotional and verbal	Influence of alcohol industry on legislation Rugby World Cup legislation accommodating drinking Services available are dependent on geographical location – operating in silos currently Self-regulation not working Blood Alcohol Content too high Government unwillingness to make changes Not enough community input into decisions on licensed premises Auckland Council needs to be bold to influence national legislation changes Lack of legal ability to limit licences Price of alcohol needs to be addressed Purchase age for alcohol needs to be increased More active enforcement needed by Police

*Issues that were most frequently mentioned.

5. Environmental Analysis: What is happening in the alcohol harm reduction sector?

In this workshop, sector groups were asked to identify the programmes and projects that were currently happening in Auckland to reduce alcohol-related harm. They were also asked to identify what they thought the strengths were (things that are working well and should be continued), things we could do differently, and opportunities for new initiatives or new ways of doing things.

Strengths

A range of projects were identified that are occurring both regionally and nationally to address alcohol-related harm. Programmes operating in the Auckland region that are perceived to be strong and worth building on include those delivered by Odyssey House and Waipareira Trust. Other areas of perceived strength within the sector include the solutions focused work with cultural groups and communities, the cultural Māori programmes for youth, community leadership groups such as Papcos, licensing trusts, the sector's knowledge, commitment and holistic approach to the alcohol issue, enforcement, Auckland Council's engagement with the sector, collaboration within the sector (e.g. in the enforcement area), good networks and forums, Auckland Council's willingness to listen to the community, the sector's commitment to evidence and outcome based models, and liquor bans. There are also some promising programmes happening in the region, for example within the youth sector e.g. CAYAD and Justice on the Marae. Following a strengths-based approach, as suggested by some of the groups, these programmes and functions could be further supported by interagency collaboration and could be piloted or extended into other areas.

Things we could do differently

Each group had key areas of improvement that were specific to their particular sector. There were also some common areas the groups felt we could do differently as a collective. These include:

- Having a more structural and cohesive approach to our work – working on the links between the different ends of the continuum (prevention through to treatment). We all have a common goal of prevention and harm reduction so we could work in a more coordinated manner
- Having better support for the workforce to ensure sustainability. More funding, resources and support are needed for local projects and stronger collaboration between sector members could help with sharing resources, particularly in these times when funding can be difficult to attain and/or sustain
- Strengthened collaboration between agencies; between the Auckland Council/local boards and agencies, and between agencies and communities. Also, building links between the alcohol harm reduction sector and external agencies such as housing and budgeting services, education and transport
- Showing more accountability to demonstrate results to ensure continued funding
- Community based education for parents so that they can lead by example
- Having more initiatives available in rural areas to foster positive entertainment

- Assess the way we use language to lobby – we need to make a business case for change
- We need to have some common language and a coherent voice as a sector
- Build more evidence
- Higher Police visibility and more premise visits
- Improving the education on the Sale of Liquor Act and by-laws
- Work harder at mobilising communities and gaining active membership
- Implementing stricter bylaws, policies and legislation
- Ensuring that we put interim policies and measures in place to reduce alcohol harm in Auckland while we wait for the Alcohol Reform Bill to become law
- Improving our local alcohol-related data collection and evidence base, and
- Doing less talking about the issues and starting to implement some solutions to reduce alcohol harm. For example, resourcing pilot projects or extending other projects such as Māori youth programmes to other groups.

Opportunities

The opportunities that are listed below include those that are relevant to the aim of assisting the Auckland Council in their planning processes. Those opportunities that were identified for future action, broken down by sector, include the following:

- Treatment
 - Reframing the alcohol harm reduction sector towards a cohesive harm prevention continuum inclusive of treatment
 - Supporting the Auckland Council to incorporate treatment interventions sector within the 30 year vision
 - Work to de-stigmatise alcohol harm reduction worker's roles
 - Developing early and brief intervention initiatives
 - Building on intervention models such as Northland DHB Triage Navigators, Social Workers in Schools and exploring use in different settings e.g. prisons.
 - Encouraging the Auckland Council to recognise wider determinants in their planning, not just economics
 - Supporting the Auckland Council to be bold and take the lead in reducing alcohol harm
 - Effective advocacy for more treatment options that are easily accessible.
- Social Services
 - Parent education initiatives e.g. extend Project Genesis
 - Improving communication, collaboration and information sharing within the sector
 - Enabling and supporting more initiatives, activities and programmes to be drug and alcohol free
 - Supporting the sector to establish proactive initiatives
 - Supporting existing infrastructure to be used more creatively and possibly creating new infrastructure to provide alternative recreational options for adults and youth.

- Community Safety
 - Working more collaboratively
 - Targeting the need and knowing the need
 - Supporting needs-based and regionalised projects
 - Considering the use of the WHO Community Safety model to inform planning processes
 - Supporting holistic education to everyone including homes and sports clubs
 - Encouraging Auckland Council to take a leadership model in community safety.

- Health Promotion/Community Action
 - Supporting the Auckland Council to have the courage to step up and influence Parliament. With approximately one third of New Zealand's population living here, we have the power and need to use it. The Auckland Council need to take action now and not wait for the Alcohol Reform Bill to be passed
 - Developing and promoting better alcohol resources and information for the community, particularly for young people
 - The possibility of a project focusing on the calorie content of alcohol to target women's drinking
 - Adopting a regional approach to support zero tolerance to alcohol sponsorship and advertising
 - Advocating for pictures of alcohol-related injuries and illness to go on alcohol bottles (like the picture warnings on cigarette packets)
 - Identifying champions to promote alcohol harm minimisation messages and utilising strengths based approaches to promote and celebrate positive role models
 - Building communities and their capacity to engage in the big picture
 - Utilising local alcohol policies to mobilize communities around the alcohol issue
 - Working with parents to build their knowledge and skill sets
 - Using different media to promote messages (e.g. online, website, videos, social media etc).

- Licensing
 - Implementing Asian-targeted programmes
 - Continual and better education around the Sale of Liquor Act for licensees
 - Recognising good licencees – like Best Bar None
 - Intelligence-led initiatives (target resources where most needed using intelligence as a basis)
 - Developing tools to communicate the Sale of Liquor Act to non English speaking licensees
 - Improving public transport options and for bars to provide transport options.

- Policy/Planning
 - Supporting the Auckland Council to lead the country in alcohol harm reduction strategies – make change quickly, the community is ready to go. The rest of the country will follow a city the size of Auckland and make similar changes
 - The opportunity is there for the Auckland Council to tap into community awareness
 - Getting some quick wins on the board e.g. stop on new licences
 - Creating a lobbying opportunity with the election/Rugby World Cup and Alcohol Reform Bill
 - We all need to ‘walk the talk’
 - Developing and implementing strong alcohol management plans around events such as the Rugby World Cup
 - Supporting Auckland Council to use their clout at central government level and advocate for stronger public policy to address alcohol-related harm.

Programme Strategies

There appears to be a range of key strategies being used in these projects and programmes in Auckland. An educative approach is the most common strategy that is currently being used. Other approaches include social marketing, advocacy and lobbying, community action, enforcement and monitoring, building personal skills and raising awareness.

Target Audiences

There are a number of programmes in the region that aim to reduce alcohol-related harm in youth, Pacific Island peoples, Māori, parents, workplaces and premises that hold liquor licences.

Sector collaboration

Effective collaboration is occurring in pockets in the Auckland region, for example in the liquor licensing and enforcement area where agencies such as Auckland Regional Public Health Service, the Police, Auckland Council, and ACC collaborate on projects. Overall though, collaboration was one of the areas identified where improvement is needed; particularly between the different ends of the prevention and treatment continuum.

Systematic Structures and Processes

A cross-section of activity is happening throughout the region. However, forum participants felt that currently activities were operating in isolated silos, instead of in a cohesive manner. The forum participants identified that improvements in the processes and systematic structures within the sector are needed to achieve effective and consistent outcomes. Robust and integrated planning for the region was generally supported at the forum. Auckland Council’s approach and work being done by the Restoring the Balance group indicates that this has been initiated. This work will require ongoing support from the sector until it has been effectively implemented.

Evidence base

There was little evidence to demonstrate that formal evaluation of the projects and programmes that participants identified in this session has been completed. Therefore, our understanding of the effectiveness of these projects and programmes is inconclusive. However, there may have been insufficient time in the workshop for this information to be fully explored.

6. Moving Forward

The beginning of the afternoon session involved a visioning exercise in which the participants were asked to imagine what Auckland, as the world's most liveable city, would look like, with a focus on how alcohol would be managed in that city.

The following ideas were brainstormed by the various sector groups:

They hoped for a city...

- that is free from crime and violence,
- that is safe,
- in which parents worry less about alcohol,
- that is vibrant but not violent,
- that is an entertainment hub that does not have alcohol as its focus,
- that has good role models,
- in which communities can have a say,
- with less liquor outlets and limited hours for on and off licences,
- that is prosperous and thriving,
- where people understand the laws and legislation,
- that has a different drinking culture,
- that has greater access to a higher number of treatment facilities,
- that has stronger relationships within whānau and communities,
- that is free from alcohol-related death and injury,
- where it was easier to lose and harder to get licences,
- where there is tougher penalties for intoxication related incidents,
- where more non-alcoholic recreational activities available,
- with better transport,
- with better role modeling by parents,
- with less tolerance for anti-social behavior,
- that has increased resources for enforcement,
- where alcohol is an occasional product,
- that has reduced inequalities resulting from alcohol-related harm,
- that has no alcohol sponsorship or advertising,
- that has a decreased blood alcohol level for driving,
- where there is no drunken parties in public places,

- that has less products aimed at youth,
- that has less need for social services/police/prison,
- where there is no social supply to underagers.

After the groups had brainstormed their vision for Auckland, they transitioned into identifying what would have to happen for the vision to be achieved. To do this they developed some objectives, strategies and priority areas for the next three years.

Firstly, in identifying the steps that would need to be taken to achieve Auckland's vision, the groups put the following ideas forward for the Auckland Council to consider:

- The Auckland Council needs to have courage and lead by example. To achieve this some actions to consider are:
 - Promoting Council events as alcohol-free and finding alternative sponsorship to replace any alcohol-related sponsorship that is currently in place
 - Representing their community and developing a robust alcohol policy incorporating opportunities for local bylaws and policies
 - Fostering active citizenship, promoting proactivity and helping with coordination and funding of local initiatives to reduce alcohol-related harm
 - Integrating alcohol harm reduction measures throughout all facets of Auckland Council planning e.g. transport, urban design, safety etc
 - Supporting local programmes and services that are working well and where they can, helping with funding and resources
 - Continuing to communicate and engage with agencies in the alcohol harm reduction sector and collaborating with them to achieve common goals and outcomes-based results
 - Advocating and lobbying central government for stronger alcohol harm reduction legislation
 - Being involved in a regional overarching strategic framework for alcohol harm reduction work
 - Acting as a conduit between the local boards and agencies and communities.

Secondly, various objectives, strategies and actions were put forward by the groups for the following three years to reduce alcohol-related harm in our city and achieve the 30 year vision. Many of these were related to the Alcohol Reform Bill but some of them can be considered independently:

- Introducing interim policies to decrease alcohol-related harm while we wait for the Alcohol Reform Bill to be enacted for example, local bylaws to ban visual alcohol advertising in the region (on buses, stadiums, shelter, billboards) and sinking lid policies or caps on liquor licences
- Having mandated consultation and a written policy for council events and buildings to be alcohol free
- Making health the priority in Council planning rather than economic interests
- Planning a city through the eyes of a child

- Placing a wellbeing lens over all city planning
- Supporting the establishment of regional data base systems to measure alcohol harm indicators
- Incorporating a moratorium on the number of liquor outlets until the Alcohol Reform Bill is enacted in law
- Advocating for all people that serve alcohol to be licensed
- Ensuring that there is community awareness of the alcohol harm reduction initiatives that are taking place in the region
- Helping with funding of effective alcohol harm reduction programmes and resourcing of compliance work
- Improving the communications on and in areas where there are liquor bans
- Considering a region-wide bylaw for limiting BAC for watercraft operators
- Improving the consistencies within Council, particularly with monitoring
- Learning lessons from the smokefree movement in New Zealand.

7. Discussion

This section discusses points of interest drawn from this report.

Programmes and Strategies

As mentioned earlier the majority of programmes and projects that were identified are using an educative approach to minimising alcohol-related harm. It is important to consider the evidence in relation to this approach. While educative approaches do have their place in a comprehensive alcohol harm reduction strategy, research has shown that although they may increase knowledge and change attitudes, they have no long-term effect on drinking. Therefore, it is important that when we are planning alcohol harm reduction work in Auckland that we utilise educative approaches in the most effective ways.

An evidence-based approach to harm prevention would include a range of strategies. For example, effective strategies may include advocating for healthy public policy through submission writing etc, robust monitoring and enforcement of licensed outlets and existing laws, creating supportive environments through community development and action projects, provision of accessible and appropriate treatment options, implementation of screening, early and brief interventions, and raising public awareness of alcohol issues through the media, forums or other avenues. Educative approaches could be used towards building knowledge and understanding of issues and effective responses/interventions.

Target Audiences

Although a number of audiences are being targeted by the identified programmes and projects in Auckland, it appears that there has not been a systematic region-wide approach to this. Participants at the forum felt that projects and programmes were operating in silos and that some groups were missing

out on interventions. For example, opportunities to work with migrant populations and parents were discussed, as well as the possibility of extending some of the projects that are working well for certain ethnic groups to other population groups that have a need.

Sector collaboration

Improved collaboration was a common thread that came out of the forum discussions. This involved collaboration both within the sector and between sector agencies and external organisations. Internally, it was felt that we could improve the cohesiveness between the entire spectrum of agencies from prevention through to treatment. Externally, groups thought there could be worthwhile opportunities to engage with other organisations that have complementary goals to strengthen our work and also possibly share resources more effectively. There may be opportunities here to combine projects, put more resources into established projects that are working well, or alternatively, pilot a project such as a brief intervention utilising different agencies such as public health, police, education and treatment. There are a range of brief and early intervention opportunities that are worth exploring to move forward and address harmful drinking in a collaborative way and in various settings.

Evidence base

It was mentioned a number of times at the forum about the urgent requirement for our sector to have good local alcohol-related data available. This would help us develop an understanding of what is happening in our region and build a solid baseline for our planning and activities upon which we can measure outcomes. This is particularly important with local alcohol policy development being on the law reform agenda and needs to be a priority in any future planning for the region.

8. Key themes and conclusions

Overall, the key themes from the forum were:

- There is a strong commitment and energy within the sector to move forward and make gains in addressing the alcohol related harm and issues in Auckland
- There is a big emphasis on the need to focus on solutions and ideas – we are past selling the problem
- There is a need to keep the pressure on central government to achieve good legislation and keep the momentum going
- The need for a strategic overall vision for alcohol work in the region and a strong collaborative and cohesive approach between agencies (including the Auckland Council) spanning the full width of the continuum to achieve solid outcomes
- The importance of continued engagement between the Auckland Council and the alcohol harm reduction sector
- The urgent requirement for Auckland Council to be bold and lead the country with its alcohol harm reduction approach and to advocate for strong laws nationally on behalf of its population and the rest of New Zealand

- There is an ongoing need for information sharing forums such as this one, particularly involving both the Auckland Council and relevant agencies working to reduce alcohol-related harm. A cohesive and consistent approach to planning and implementation is the way forward
- The sector needs to improve in the following areas: consistency, collaboration, cohesiveness, connectivity, and communication

The evaluation and planning team debrief session confirmed the forum achieved its purpose and that it was well received.

9. What are the next steps for the alcohol harm reduction sector?

In moving forward, it is important that we harness the enthusiasm and the commitment that the alcohol harm reduction sector currently has. We need to start focusing on further implementing effective solutions and interventions to reduce alcohol-related harm and these need to be the emphasis in our planning.

An overarching strategic alcohol framework and vision are required for the region that sets out good systematic structures and integrated processes for planning, implementation and evaluation. It is also imperative that this framework sets out the processes for effective collaboration across the continuum of the sector; from prevention through to treatment. Fostering good relationships within and external to the sector is also important to enable problem solving. Additionally, the planning process needs to put steps in place to improve the data collection and monitoring systems for alcohol-related intelligence. Finally, this planning needs to be based on agreed principles to support effective decision making.

It was clear from the forum that participants were eager to translate the sharing of ideas and discussions from the workshops into some tangible outcomes. In aid of this, Alcohol Healthwatch has developed some ideas based on the forum findings for future consideration:

- Develop and foster a regional alcohol network that is involved in all alcohol harm reduction planning and processes and can develop and steer an overarching framework for the sector.
- Develop a core planning group from within this network who could interact with each other and Auckland Council on all alcohol planning and implementation for the region.
- Facilitate a planning process towards agreement on an overarching strategic framework for harm prevention in the region, and subsequent sector and intersectoral action planning.
- Develop processes to achieve improvements in consistency, collaboration, cohesiveness, connectivity, and communication within sectors and across sectors.
- Look at how we maintain and enhance all of the good practice that is currently happening, address gaps, and identify new areas of opportunity.
- Develop tools to support the sector, for example an interactive website that could include the various sub-sectors, explain what they each do, and contact points. This website could also provide an online forum for discussion for network members and act as a bulletin board for up-to-date news and research.

- Develop concrete ways to build knowledge and capacity in the sector.
- Develop an action plan to begin addressing the lack of alcohol-related data in our region.
- Assess the educative approaches that alcohol harm reduction programmes are achieving optimal outcomes.
- Identify ongoing ways to manage dynamics that are present in our work, for example, local versus regional needs and commercial versus public interests and competitive funding models.

10. Evaluation Results

There were many positive aspects that came out of the forum evaluations. In particular, respondents were encouraged by the Council's involvement and for their sharing of information about their planning and new structures at the beginning of the forum. There was great enthusiasm for the forum with good attendance from experienced and learned professional and voluntary participants. A lot of good quality information came out of the forum and overall important themes were extracted. Other evaluation results are as follows:

- 100% of the respondents found the forum enjoyable, with 74% finding it very enjoyable – the chance to network, share information and collaborate with the Auckland Council were highlights
- 97% of respondents found the forum either very or moderately informative - in particular participants found the Council presentation on the new structure helpful
- 97% of respondents found the forum very or moderately useful
- 69% of attendees thought that the aims of the forum were achieved
- The particular parts of the forum that participants most enjoyed were the immediate feedback after the workshops to the wider group, networking, working in small sector based groups, and the presentation by Michael Sinclair of the Auckland Council.
- Ideas that were put forward to improve future forums included having specific actions identified for relevant Council teams to take forward and implement, engaging more with migrant communities, narrowing the questions to fit with the time available, including a youth voice and continuing the engagement between the Council and the alcohol harm reduction sector.

The full analysis of the evaluation results is included in Appendix C.

Appendix A – Agenda for the Auckland Regional Alcohol Planning Forum



AUCKLAND REGIONAL ALCOHOL PLANNING FORUM

2 June 2011

AGENDA

09:15am	Welcome/Mihi Karakia
09:20am	Opening address - Councillor George Wood, Auckland Council
09:30am	Introduction - Rebecca Williams, Director Alcohol Healthwatch
09:40am	Auckland Council - Michael Sinclair, Principal Policy Analyst, Community and Cultural Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning overview• Alcohol Programme and Framework
10:00am	Questions/Discussion
10:15am	Regional Updates
10:30am	<i>Morning Tea</i>
11:00am	Planning for alcohol-related harm reduction Workshop Session - 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the key issues?• What are we doing to respond/address these?
12:15pm	Regional Updates
12:30pm	<i>Lunch</i>
01:30pm	Summaries from Workshop Session 1 (Facilitators) Planning for alcohol-related harm reduction Workshop Session - 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is our vision?• What are our priorities and what key strategies will we use in moving forward?
02:50pm	Summaries from Workshop Session 2 (Facilitators)
03:15pm	Conclusions/Action Points Moving forward together – how do we best co-ordinate our efforts? Evaluation
03:30pm	Close/Karakia

Appendix B – Forum attendance list by agency

ACC

ALAC

Alcohol Healthwatch

Auckland Council – Liquor licensing, Local Boards, Planning, Policy, Community Safety, CAYAD, Youth services.

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Cancer Society

Child and Youth Family

Chinese New Settlers Service Trust

Counties Manukau District Health Board

Franklin Family Support Services

GALA

Hapai Te Hauora Tapui Ltd

Harmony Trust

Ka Mau Te Wero Charitable Trust

Local Government NZ

Mental Health Foundation

Ministry of Health

NZ Fire Service

NZ Police

Odyssey House

Otara Health Charitable Trust

Raise the Bar

Salvation Army

Shore Safe Community Trust

SHORE & Whariki Research Centre

St Stephen's Anglican Church

Takapuna Community Facilities Trust

Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust

University of Auckland

Vision West Community Trust

Waitakere Service Centre

Watersafe Auckland

Whitiki Maurea

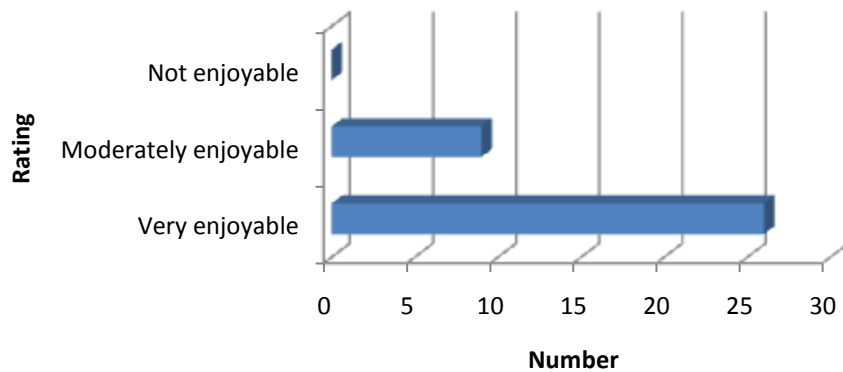
Women's Health Action

Appendix C - Evaluation Results

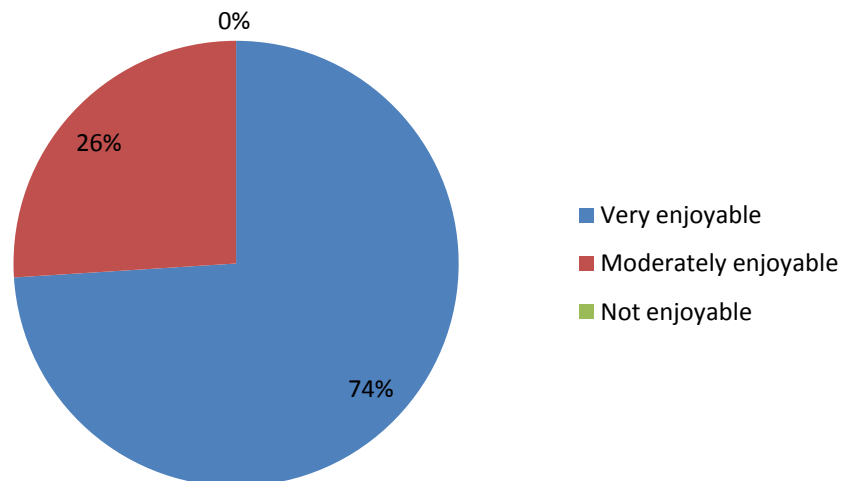
35 evaluations were received, giving a response rate of 39%.

Please note: This response rate is based on the number of participants that were at the forum at the start of the day. These numbers had decreased by the end of the day when the evaluation process was carried out.

Q1. How enjoyable did you find the forum?



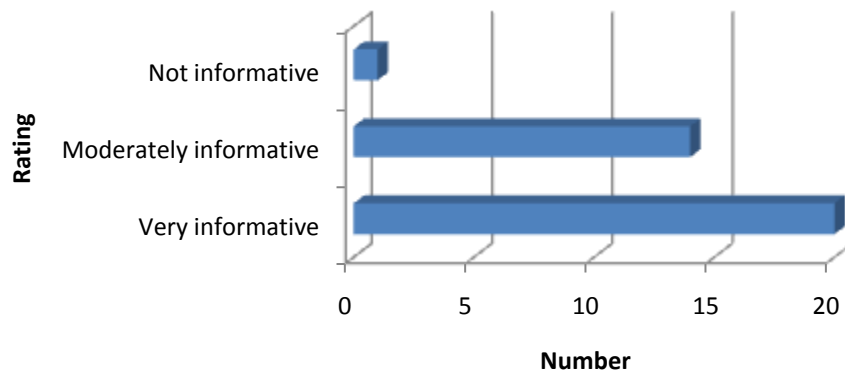
Nearly three quarters of attendees found the forum very enjoyable (74%) and twenty six percent found it moderately enjoyable. Attendees valued the presence and input from the Council and the great networking opportunities that the forum provided.



Comments received:

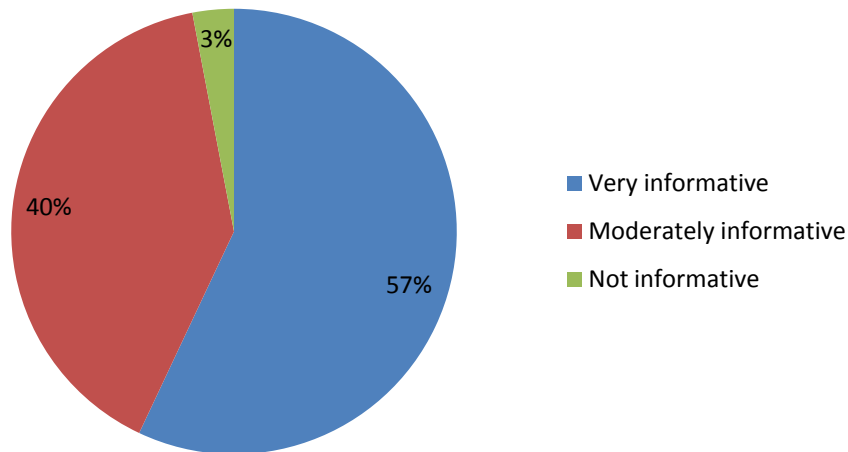
- Well presented
- Enjoyed the ability to work in groups that do similar work
- Good to see lots of different representation including local boards/ Auckland Council
- Very good, great interagency transfer of information
- Tightly focused
- Learnt and shared with good people trying to do good
- Networking, discussions and knowledge in the room – priceless!
- Great to meet with people who are passionate about issues around alcohol and reducing the harmful causes
- I felt a little bit frustrated as the evidence base is well documented – it would be good to have more discussion on effective interventions
- Good venue
- Great networking
- Good to hear the mix of views. Great networking opportunity
- Very informative. Useful strategies to reduce harm
- Great chance for fruitful discussion and networking.

Q2. How informative did you find the forum?



The graphs show that a little over half of the attendees found the forum informative (57%). Forty percent of attendees found the forum moderately informative and 1 person (3%) didn't find it informative.

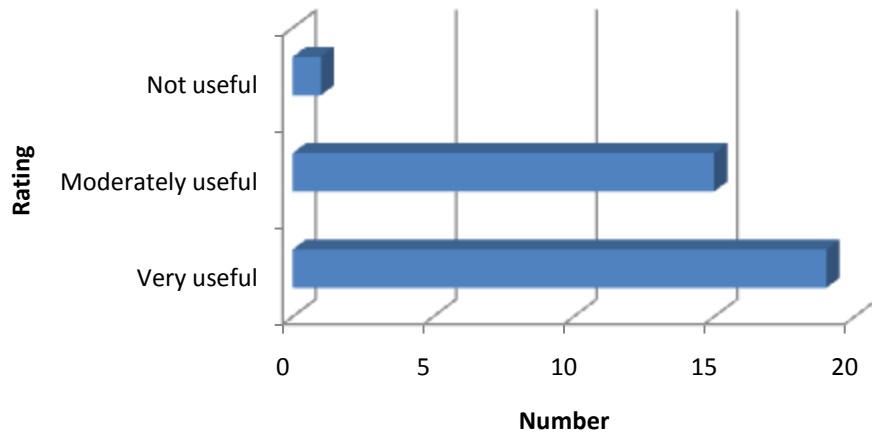
When looking at the feedback, it seems that some of the attendees thought that the forum was going to provide new information on areas such as alcohol harm reduction strategies and when this didn't happen they felt that they were treading over old ground. However, the primary aim of the forum was to provide the Council with information for the planning of their alcohol framework and programmes – not to provide attendees with new research, information or strategies.



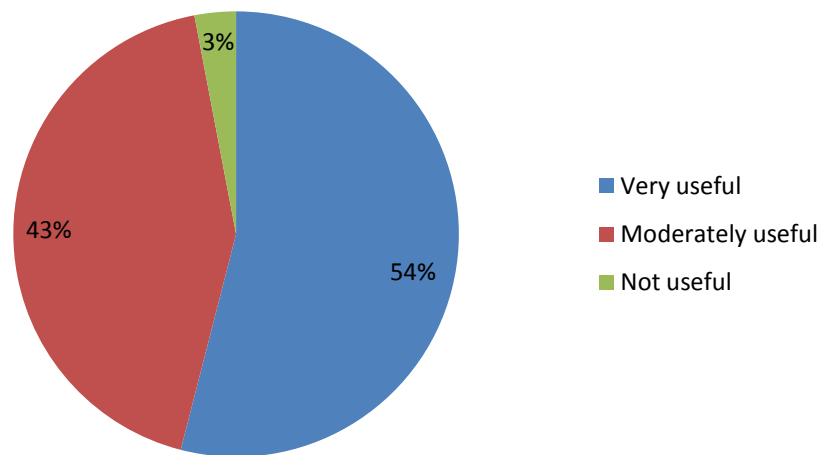
Comments received:

- A few new ideas but mostly information that I am already aware of
- Traversed a lot of the 'same old, same old' ground with a lot of hairy old chestnuts like more education at school needed – had hoped we might have moved beyond that
- Would have liked to sit at a variety of groups
- Some new stuff/ideas, a lot I already knew
- More aware of what's available out there/system supports
- Found information around legislative areas very informative and also cleared up new Council structural organization
- Learnt about new programmes being held in other communities
- Good opportunity to network
- Yes regarding Council
- Good to know about Council structures
- There are huge complexities which cannot be identified and worked through in a day
- Great to hear what is happening across the region
- Excellent presentation from Council. Great to see them taking a lead
- Especially around community building and activation.

Q3. How useful did you find the forum in relation to your work or interests?



Slightly more than half of the attendees found the forum very useful (54%). Just under half of the attendees found the forum moderately useful and only 1 person (3%) didn't find it useful. In particular, attendees appeared to find the Council presentation on the new structure useful.

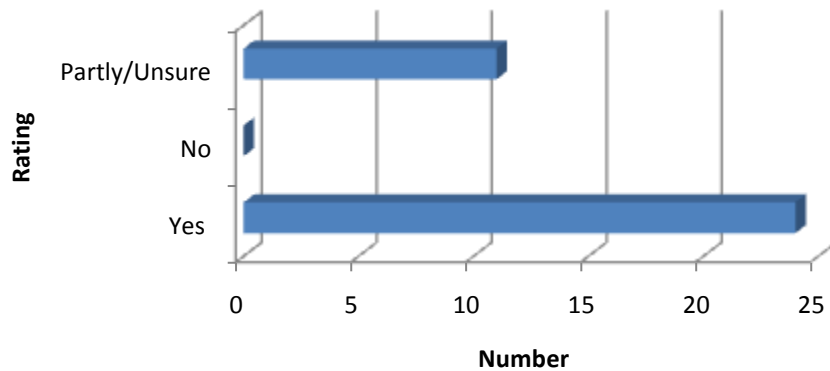


Comments received:

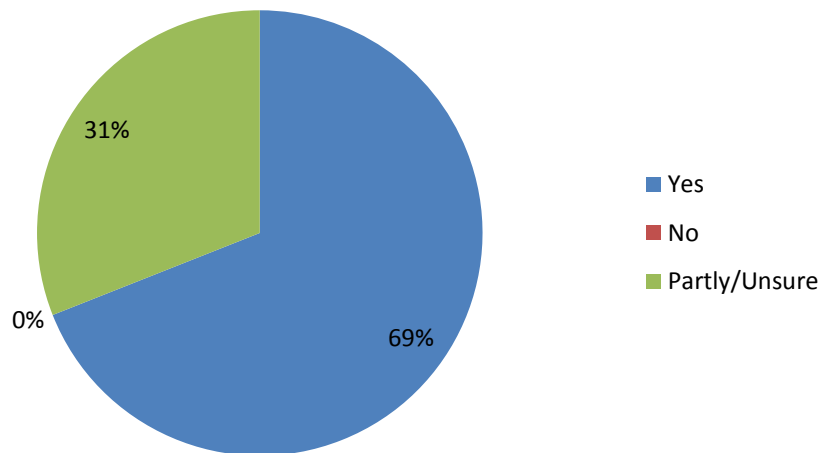
- Useful to have the overview of Auckland Council and what the Council is doing at the moment
- Needed a bit more about getting Auckland Council to step up in terms of advocacy and innovative interventions e.g. moratorium on liquor licences in area already saturated with them
- Very good, great way to exchange contact details
- Useful in areas of Acts, law and legislation

- Helped put a number of issues into perspective for me
- Had the chance to put forward our point of view/suggestions
- Great to meet local board members
- Some good opportunities for follow up
- Was able to network, build relationships
- Especially community cohesion development. Community/economic development
- Discussion was relevant to my work.

Q4. Do you think we achieved the aims of the forum?



As the graphs show, the majority of attendees (69%) felt that we did achieve the aim of the forum which was a positive finding. 31% felt that we partly achieved the aim or they were unsure about whether the aim was achieved or not. Note that the aim was not supplied on the evaluation sheet with this question.



Comments received:

- Very broad, needed to get down and dirty more
- Good start
- Awareness and forward planning
- Lots more to be considered
- Groups worked well to develop objectives for the Council
- Not quite enough time to do the stock take activity
- Huge topic which requires continued collaboration over the years
- You were able to have discussion, consultation and feedback re: relevant issues around reducing alcohol use.

Q5. Do you have any other comments that may assist in planning for future forums?

Comments received:

- Well run, thank you
- Need to have specific actions identified for relevant Council teams to take forward and implement
- Invite/engage more representation from ethnic diverse communities (migrant communities)
- No need for introduction – could have been done by pamphlet. Lost a good hour or conference time
- Questions rather too ‘wide’ for time available. Need to emphasise alcohol harm focus, not ‘Auckland’ development at large
- More meetings, workshops etc
- Turn the heaters on, room slightly cold
- I liked the immediate feedback after each workshop
- Group work (small numbers) was very useful, having clear questions was good, well thought out forum
- Very well organised. All ok
- Quite hard work in small groups – maybe a half day and lunch? Would be good to be kept updated about Council processes
- It’s always hard to concentrate for a whole workshop often it feels like we do a lot of talking, but not much action. I think the gathering of the different agencies today is to be celebrated and each should individually and together start doing, not expect Council to be the solver of every problem
- Antonia was an excellent note taker
- Include a ‘youth voice’ in a significant way (not just one youth – a group of young people)

- Keep at it!
- We all have ideal outcomes, but perhaps need more emphasis on how Auckland Council can tell Government that 1/3 of the population wants more of the Law Commission report auctioned, and the 5+ solution put in place. AHW support hopefully to continue
- We really need a coordinated, regional group that is facilitated/supported by one agency i.e. Health or AHW
- Council needs to keep engaging
- Well done. Good food. Thank you.

Conclusions

- The evaluation response rate was 39% which means that these findings may not represent a completely accurate picture of how attendees rated the forum. However, as mentioned the response rate was calculated on the number of participants that were present at the beginning of the forum, not the end which distorts the figure somewhat. Strategies to increase this response rate need to be discussed before the next forum.
- Overall, the feedback on the forum received was positive. Particular highlights included the Council presentation, group work, networking and the coming together of multiple agencies who are working towards a common goal.
- Areas for improvement that were noted for future planning include the need to have significant input from youth and migrant populations, more action oriented outcomes, and some more thought could be put into the length of the forum and timing of sessions/workshops.
- There was an overwhelming desire by attendees at the forum for the Auckland Council to use its weight (in population size) to lead the country in advocating and lobbying the government for effective, evidence based policy change to reduce alcohol-related harm.