

Issue 2 , September 2017



E raka te maui e raka te katau

A community can use all the skills of its people

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Welcome to the second edition of our e-news. So much has happened since our last June edition – the following provides a snapshot but feel free to contact us for more information. We realise this edition is lengthy, so feel free to click on a topic above which has most interest to you. For any readers interested in issues relating to local alcohol regulation, we thoroughly recommend you read the paper by Muhunthan et al in the Research update.

[ARLA DECISION: AUCKLAND COUNCIL'S PROVISIONAL LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICY](#)

In May 2014, Auckland Council released its Draft Local Alcohol Policy for public consultation. Following submissions and hearings, the Provisional Local Alcohol Policy was adopted in May 2015, allowing the 30-day appeal period to commence.

Eight parties registered as an appellant and eight registered as an interested party (including Alcohol Healthwatch). Finally, in February 2017 a four-week ARLA hearing commenced to hear the appeals. On July 19th, ARLA's decision was released ([click here](#)). See our press statements (with [Hāpai te Hauora](#) and [Takapuna Central Residents Group](#)) for our comments.

In a nutshell, ARLA found the following elements to be unreasonable:

- 9am opening of off-licences
- Elements relating to the hours within which alcohol may be delivered from remote sellers
- Elements relating to Local Impact Reports as they pertain to renewals (ARLA noted 'shortcomings' in the writing of the element)
- The discretionary condition regarding off-licence single sales (again, ARLA noted 'shortcomings' in the writing)
- The discretionary condition regarding closing of off-licence premises near Education Facilities (again, ARLA noted only 'shortcomings')

As such, policy elements found not to be unreasonable:

- 8am to 4am maximum on-licence hours in Auckland's City Centre
- 8am to 3am maximum on-licence hours outside Auckland's City Centre
- 9pm closing of off-licences (the off-licence trading hours were together in one element so the whole element has been referred back to Council, however ARLA noted in the decision that the 9pm closing was not considered unreasonable)
- Local Impact Report policy tool to collect information to inform licensing decision-making
- A Priority Overlay approach to control the availability of alcohol in broad areas (23 areas in Auckland have been given special protection in the policy)
- A 24-month freeze on the issue of new off-licences in the City Centre and 23 Priority Overlay areas

- Rebuttable presumption against the issuing of new off-licences (within neighbourhood centres and once the freeze has ended in the City Centre and Priority Overlay areas)

There were a number of key statements made by ARLA that warrant attention:

- “The object of the Act does not create a statutory ‘right’ to safely consume alcohol”
- “Provided there is an evidential basis for the adoption of the precautionary principle, if the Council considers its local alcohol policy has the possibility of meeting the object of the Act, then the Council is entitled to test whether that possibility is a reality”
- “Because the local alcohol policy is but one of the matters in section 105 to which the DLC or Authority must have regard to when deciding whether to issue a licence, a licence may still be issued depending on the weight given to the local alcohol policy relative to other matters in section 105. While the Council hopes that the DLC or Authority will give significant weight to the freeze and rebuttable presumption, that remains a matter for the decision-maker.”

ARLA DECISION: TREATY HAS NO AUTHORITY IN RELATION TO LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICIES

During the 4-week hearing, the Otago Gambling and Alcohol Action Group (an interested party to the appeals) submitted to ARLA that the Treaty of Waitangi, or its principles, apply to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act and the Council’s decision making under the Act.

The decision from ARLA noted the following “The Act does not incorporate the Treaty or its principles. While Section 94(1) of the Act states that a local alcohol policy must be consistent with the Act and the general law, as already stated the Treaty is not part of the general law of New Zealand. As a result, it has no authority in relation to local alcohol policies”.

David Ratu (pictured below), Deputy Chair of the Turehou Māori Wardens ki Otago Charitable Trust, says that “I am disappointed but not surprised. In my view it is yet another example of a panel that does not have the courage to deal with a product that is causing a major harm on Māori and the wider community. All the more reason why our appearance before the Waitangi Tribunal with our Claim can't come soon enough”.



CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER CALLS FOR ACTION ON ALCOHOL TO REDUCE SUICIDE

Alcohol Healthwatch supports [calls by Sir Peter Gluckman](#) regarding the role that alcohol plays in New Zealand's alarmingly high suicide rates. In 2014, over one-third (34%) of all New Zealanders who had committed suicide had alcohol in their system, and a further 23% had at least a trace of alcohol.

Sir Gluckman stated:

“There is a pressing need for us to reorder our thinking about alcohol use – because excessive and inappropriate use are both symptoms of and causes of mental disorder – as well as illicit drug use for the same reasons. We need to re-evaluate all aspects of how these are viewed and handled in our society including availability, social acceptability, behaviour, social licence, and price: all are central to any rethink/revitalisation of mental health policy”.

In addition, he added: ***“Another key aspect of primary prevention is reducing access of adolescents to alcohol, a cause of depression and an aid to suicide.”***

Alcohol Healthwatch made similar recommendations in its submission on the Ministry of Health draft strategy on suicide prevention, underpinned by strong evidence pertaining to the relationship between strong alcohol policy measures and reduced rates of suicide.

Or if you need to talk to someone else:

- LIFELINE: 0800 543 354 (available 24/7)
- SUICIDE CRISIS HELPLINE: 0508 828 865 (0508 TAUTOKO) (available 24/7)
- YOUTHLINE: 0800 376 633
- NEED TO TALK? Free call or text 1737 (available 24/7)
- KIDSLINE: 0800 543 754 (available 24/7)

- WHATSUP: 0800 942 8787 (1pm to 11pm)
- DEPRESSION HELPLINE: 0800 111 757

OCTOBER 2 - SAVE THE DATE! INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Alcohol Healthwatch is excited to bring Vinny Demarco to New Zealand on his way to presenting a keynote talk at this year's Global Alcohol Policy conference in Melbourne, Oct 4-6. For those in Tāmaki Makaurau, put this date in your diary! For those outside the region, we endeavour to record the following session to post on our website.



Monday October 2, 2017

**AUT University: MH104, MH building, AUT South Campus,
640 Great South Road, Manukau,**

10:30 to 11:30am

**Auckland University: Room 733-234, Tamaki Campus School
of Population Health,**

12.30 to 1.30pm

Abstract for presentation:

Alcohol tax increases save lives, but they rarely happen for public health purposes. This presentation will describe one model for global action: the six steps a public health coalition used to enact a substantial alcohol tax increase and dedicate revenues to public health purposes in the US state of Maryland over the strenuous opposition of the powerful alcohol lobby. The six steps are: crafting an evidence based policy; using polling to test public opinion; building a powerful coalition; using the media effectively; making our alcohol tax increase an election issue; and, finally, getting our legislation enacted.

CALLS TO REMOVE ALCOHOL SALES FROM SUPERMARKETS OR INCREASE ITS PRICE

Last month Alcohol Healthwatch supported calls by the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) to remove alcohol from supermarkets. This was following attendance at the informative event '*Alcohol, Health, and Choice*' hosted in Parliament by Alcohol Action and the NZMA. Professor Jennie Connor, Dr Stephen Child and Lotta Dann (aka Mrs D)

provided thought-provoking talks which culminated in widespread media attention from as far as the UK Guardian and even Sputnik news in Russia! The outpouring of support from the public was overwhelming!

High quality New Zealand studies have empirically examined the effects of the introduction of wine into supermarkets, showing increased availability was associated with significant (and immediate) increases in consumption.

The volume of wine consumption per year in New Zealand has more than doubled since 1984, from less than 50 million litres to 109 million litres in 2016. A back of the envelope calculation shows that this equates to an average yearly consumption of 38 bottles per person aged 15 years and over. We know that almost two-thirds (60%) of all wine (by volume) is sold through supermarkets, and often at very low prices. The availability of wine is likely to have contributed to the growing consumption of alcohol among women (hazardous drinking has increased every year since 2011 among NZ women), as well as contributing to the normalisation of alcohol use (particularly among children). Lotta Dann truly opened our eyes to the daily anxiety faced by persons with alcohol dependencies when going about their day-to-day shopping in licensed supermarkets.

SEPTEMBER FASD AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

September is **FASD Awareness Month** highlighting the importance of FASD prevention and improved support for those affected by FASD. September 9th is a day that symbolises the 9 months of pregnancy in which to grow a healthy baby. The day is marked internationally with a Moment of Reflection at 9.09am.

2017 will be the 18th year consecutive year since inception in 1999, in which this dynamic little country of ours has marked FASD Awareness Day. Being the first land to be touched by the sun each day, we are also the first nation to mark FASDAY each year.

Events this year include:

- Northland DHB organising a Facebook FASD Awareness '**Thunderclap**'. Join up [here](#) – it's easy and free.
- Two events are planned for Auckland – '*Whānau Ora and FASD Action*' with Hāpai te Hauora and Alcohol Healthwatch on Thurs September 7 and FASD-CAN's '*Let's Get Strategic*' families forum on Sat 9th September. Invitations and details of both events can be found on www.fan.org.nz – RSVPs are essential.

- The Hawke's Bay DHB and locals are planning a FASD family day on Saturday 9th September 2017 11.00am to 1.30pm @ Anderson Park on York Ave Napier – with a bouncy castle, band, sausage sizzle, cupcake stall, information stand and a balloon release. All are welcome!
- The collaborative Trust forum on FASD on 21st September in Christchurch from 12 - 2pm, facilitated by Dr Sue Bagshaw, will explore FASD from an educational, social, and therapy perspective. To register your interest in attending please email Trish Jamieson trish.jamieson@hotmail.co.nz or call her mobile 0275 468 250

September is FASD awareness month,
support alcohol-free pregnancies

**DON'T
KNOW? DON
DRINK**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

There are some positive stories to report from around the world and some key measures in progress that we need to keep our eyes on.

South African Breweries forced to backtrack on its marketing strategy

This followed condemnation from the South African Alcohol Policy Alliance regarding the company's launch of a new Beers for Africa eight-pack which aimed (through allocating a proportion of profits) to feed hungry students across the continent. Click [here](#) for more information.

Samoa's Government Minister supports recommendations from the Samoa Law Reform Commission

The Attorney General's Office is presently drafting the Alcohol Control Bill 2017 to table in Parliament. The Samoan Government has shown support of the Samoa Law Reform Commission's recommendations to overhaul the current Alcohol Act, which includes raising the price of alcohol.

Minimum unit pricing in Scotland tested at the UK Supreme Court

Five years after Scotland introduced legislation for a 50p minimum unit price and following long drawn-out legal challenges, a two-day hearing in the UK Supreme Court took place in July. A decision is expected this year – we will keep you posted! It is estimated that by

Alcohol Focus Scotland that at least 4,500 Scots have died of alcohol-related diseases during this delay in alcohol policy.

Ireland's new alcohol laws may be debated in upcoming Parliamentary session

Ireland's Public Health (Alcohol Bill) contains provisions relating to minimum unit pricing, alcohol advertising and sponsorship, health labelling on products, and structural separation of alcohol in shops. The Minister of Health Simon Harris has been strong in his approach:

"I suggest we listen to medics and to clinical experts perhaps an awful lot more than we listen to some vested interests in this regard. I believe you can make every 'Trojan horse' argument that you wish to dilute this legislation, but at the end of the day if we are serious about showing political leadership on alcohol, rather than political platitudes, we need to get on with delivering this legislation."

Implications of trade rules on health warnings on alcohol

There are growing concerns about trade agreements moving toward rules which are going to make it harder to have health warnings on wine and spirits. For more, [click here](#).

RESEARCH UPDATE

Please contact us if you are unable to access any of the following publications. Click on each title to be taken to the abstract or report (where available).

Local alcohol regulation

[Experiences in Australia](#)

Advertising

[Children's exposure to alcohol marketing in NZ supermarkets](#)

[An alternative alcohol advertising complaint review system](#)

Trading hours

[Systematic review of regulating trading hours and days of sale](#)

Price

[Systematic review of minimum pricing](#)

[Policy lessons from health taxes](#)

[Hospitality industry support for minimum price](#)

Labelling

[Comparing alcohol marketing and alcohol warning message policies across Canada](#)

[Alcohol consumers' attention to warning labels and brand information](#)

[WHO alcohol labelling discussion document](#)

[Alcohol labels giving consumers the information they need?](#)

Children and young people

[Parental supply of alcohol and adolescent drinking](#)

[Parental influence on heavy episodic drinking development in the transition of early adulthood](#)

[Acculturative stress and alcohol use in young adults](#)

[Effectiveness of a pragmatic school-based universal resilience intervention in reducing alcohol use](#)

Alcohol and pregnancy

[Attitudes in NZ to drinking in pregnancy](#)

[Attitudes in NZ to and awareness of alcohol pregnancy warning labels](#)

Moderating behaviours

[Motivations for reducing alcohol consumption](#)

Chronic disease

[Alcohol and digestive cancers](#)

[Alcohol and brain outcomes and cognitive decline](#)

[Alcohol and non-melanoma skin cancer](#)

[Alcohol and mortality](#)

Alcohol and Water Safety in New Zealand

[Use of alcohol in water activities](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Cutting Edge 2017

Addiction is everybody's business

6-9 September, Wellington

Global Alcohol Policy Conference

Mobilising for Change - Alcohol Policy and the evidence for action

4-6 October 2017, Melbourne

<http://www.cmnzl.co.nz/cutting-edge-2017/>

<https://www.gapc2017.org.au/>

**Public Health Association Annual
Conference**

Valuing connections, connecting values

2-4 October 2017, Christchurch

<http://www.conference.co.nz/phanz17/home>



Floor 1, 27 Gillies Ave, Newmarket, Auckland 1023, PO Box 99407, Newmarket, Auckland 1149

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Alcohol Healthwatch Trust · PO Box 99407 · Newmarket · Auckland, Ak 1149 · New Zealand

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