

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata

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Submission on the Manukau City Council (proposed) Liquor Control Bylaw 2010

1. Thank you for the opportunity for the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) to provide a submission on the (proposed) Liquor Control Bylaw.
2. ARPHS does not wish to be heard at the relevant committee.
3. The following submission represents the views of the Auckland Regional Public Health Service and does not necessarily reflect the views of the three District Health Boards. Please refer to Appendix 1 for more information on ARPHS.
4. ARPHS understands that all submissions will be available under the Official Information Act 1982, except if grounds set out under the Act apply.
5. The primary contact person for this submission is:

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1.0 Introduction: ARPHS and alcohol-related harm reduction

6. Alcohol is an addictive substance with significant negative personal, social and economic costs. Hazardous alcohol use is a major public health issue.
7. ARPHS is committed to addressing determinants of health that produce inequalities among the population. Hazardous alcohol drinking has a significant impact on perpetuating health inequalities in already disadvantaged populations.
8. ARPHS is funded by the Ministry of Health to contribute to minimise harm caused by alcohol use to both individuals and the community¹. ARPHS is heavily involved in sale of liquor issues primarily from a regulatory perspective as the Sale of Liquor Act (SOLA) mandates that the Medical Officers of Health (MOH) report on all On- and Club's licence applications.
9. ARPHS reports on approximately 1200 on-licence and club-licence applications per year, conducts night-time compliance checks to assess licensed premises for their compliance with the conditions of their licence and regularly supports the Police to undertake controlled purchase operations to assess sales of alcohol to minors.

2.0 Specific comments

10. ARPHS understands that alcohol ban strategies are more effective when they are part of an overall alcohol harm-reduction strategy² and acknowledges that liquor controls are part of Manukau Council's alcohol strategy. ARPHS also acknowledges that Council is in the process of reviewing its strategy.
11. ARPHS supports the intent of the liquor control bylaw to restrict alcohol consumption in specified public places (new and current) and congratulates the Council for addressing concerns about the harm caused by alcohol within its communities while recognising its 'obligation to only restrict peoples freedoms to the extent that is reasonable and justifiable in the circumstances'.
12. ARPHS understands the need for change for reasons of enforcement consistency and acknowledges that Council has engaged a range of community groups to assess whether the change is reasonable and justified. ARPHS also is cognisant that there are already existing 24/7 liquor control mechanisms in place.
13. ARPHS is supportive of Council's proposal to extend existing controls at specified places to 24 hours, 7 days a week **where sufficient evidence** of harm is clearly indicated. It is not apparent within the proposal that this level of evidence is present to justify the extension of the liquor ban to 7 days per week. This aspect should be strengthened within the current proposal.

¹ Ministry of Health. (2000). *The New Zealand Health Strategy*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

² Conway, K. (2002). Booze and beach bans: turning the tide through community action in New Zealand. *Health Promotion International*, 17(2), 171-177.

14. ARPHS recognises the important impact of environments in influencing healthy behaviour and therefore supports the Council's rationale behind the ban and its review. ARPHS recommends evaluating its effectiveness to determine the impact on reducing alcohol-related harm, including adverse effects such as displacement of liquor consumption to other locations including across local government boundaries.
15. Problem limitation strategies such as bans in public places take a mixed legislative and health promotion approach³. Therefore ARPHS recommends multi-faceted approaches be implemented when using liquor bans in public places. ARPHS recommends that health promotion, education and awareness raising campaigns are implemented in addition to the enforced liquor ban restrictions.
16. ARPHS suggests that enforcement is critical for the effectiveness of such bans. The establishment of a ban alone is insufficient to address alcohol consumption in public places. Therefore, these restrictions must be enforced. Literature has shown that the effectiveness of alcohol bans may be related to the effectiveness of Police and other regulatory authorities' enforcement approaches⁴.
17. ARPHS recommends that enforcement partners continue to meet on a regular basis (through Collaborative Liquor Enforcement Group forums) to regularly assess the effectiveness of liquor bans.
18. ARPHS recommends that liquor bans are intensively promoted within the community. Limitations to the effectiveness of liquor bans include low levels of awareness within members of the community. This may be related to the lack of knowledge of the bylaw itself and/or consequences of breaching the ban and/or the area covered by the bylaw⁵.

³ [http://www.ndp.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagescm/1045/\\$File/wellingtonliquorbylaw.pdf](http://www.ndp.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagescm/1045/$File/wellingtonliquorbylaw.pdf)

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

3.0 Conclusion

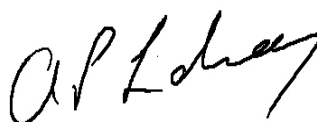
19. Auckland Regional Public Health Service supports the intent of the Liquor Control Bylaw to restrict alcohol consumption in public places and to extend 24hours/7days measures to specified places where sufficient evidence of harm is clearly indicated.

20. ARPHS thanks the Manukau City Council for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours sincerely



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Appendix 1 - Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) provides public health services for the three district health boards (DHBs) in the Auckland region (Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata District Health Boards), with the primary governance mechanism for the Service resting with Auckland District Health Board.

ARPHS has a statutory obligation under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities in the Auckland region. The Medical Officer of Health has an enforcement and regulatory role under the Health Act 1956 and other legislative designations to protect the health of the community.

ARPHS' primary concern is to improve population health rather than deliver personal health services. It actively seeks to influence any initiatives or proposals that may affect population health in the Auckland region to maximise their positive impact and minimise possible negative effects on population health.

The Auckland region faces a number of public health challenges through changing demographics, increasingly diverse communities, increasing incidence of lifestyle-related health conditions such as obesity and type 2 diabetes, outstanding infrastructure needs, the balancing of transport needs, and the reconciliation of urban design and urban intensification issues.

Policy to effect health gain is often marginalised to medical care. Health, however, is influenced by a broad range of policy decisions and is therefore a multi-sector responsibility and not solely the responsibility of the health sector. Statutes such as the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act, Local Government Act, Resource Management Act and Building Act (amongst many others) all have elements designed to deliver outcomes promoting, protecting and maintaining the health of the community. Planning and policy decisions by central government, local government, non-government agencies and the commercial sector can have a large impact on health outcomes. ARPHS, therefore, has a role to play in policy advocacy. Population health and wellbeing can be improved if policy decision makers are considering long term outcomes. ARPHS aims to influence public policy to create a supportive environment for the communities of Auckland.