

Did you know you can **have a say** on how **alcohol** is bought and sold in **your community**?

The Auckland Council is in the process of developing its Local Alcohol Policy. This policy has the ability to make changes to Auckland's alcohol environment to make it safer.

Local alcohol policies give communities an opportunity to have a say on the way alcohol is sold and supplied in their region.



THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE A SAY!

Get involved

Although having your say on policies may sound difficult, it can be as simple as writing a few short paragraphs around what changes you would like to see happen. It is important for members of the community to be involved, as the way alcohol is sold directly impacts on the amount of alcohol issues that occur in your neighbourhood.

The first step to having your views heard is to write a submission to the Auckland Council. Submissions will be open mid 2014. You may also want to speak to

your submission in person. An oral presentation makes a massive impact on the decisions that are made.

More information on processes and dates concerning Auckland's Local Alcohol Policy can be found on the Auckland Council's website.

Contained in this brochure are some key things that the Local Alcohol Policy can do to reduce alcohol issues and make your neighbourhood safer.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE A SAY!



What are the ideal opening hours for outlets that sell alcohol?

Any reduction in the current hours that alcohol outlets are open will help to decrease alcohol problems and contribute to a safer environment. A reasonable time for bottle stores, supermarkets, bars and restaurants to begin to sell alcohol is 10am.

Closing times should reflect the area that the bar or pub is based in. A maximum closing time of 2am for bars in the CBD, and an earlier time for more suburban areas will mean fewer problems and a lighter load for publicly funded services, such as the police and hospital emergency departments.



Do you think that alcohol is allowed to be sold too early in the morning or too late at night?

Communities have concerns around the number of hours that alcohol is allowed to be sold, in both bars and nightclubs, as well as at bottle stores and supermarkets.

Some people have questioned why we are selling alcohol for more than 12 hours a day, when our local chemist is only open for 8 hours a day?

It is common sense that the longer you are able to drink, the more drunk you are likely to get. The police are quite clear about the fact that the later alcohol outlets are open, the more offences they have to deal with. Also, hospital emergency departments experience large numbers of people with alcohol related issues in the early hours of the morning, when people will have been drinking for a long time.

IT IS COMMON SENSE THAT THE LONGER YOU ARE ABLE TO DRINK, THE MORE DRUNK YOU ARE LIKELY TO GET.

Communities also have concerns that children and young people are being exposed to alcohol before school

Research shows that longer opening hours are connected with more:



Drink driving



Violence



Injuries



Emergency room admissions

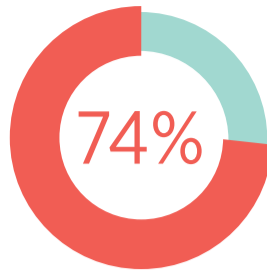


Violent crime

even starts, and that purchasing alcohol early in the morning can contribute towards addiction problems.

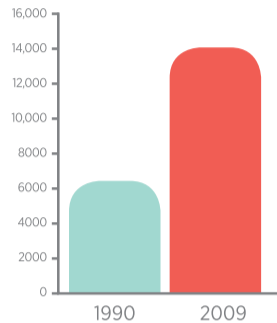
Do you think that alcohol is too easily available in your community?

Local alcohol policies are able to influence the number of alcohol outlets that are in your community. Research shows that the more places where alcohol is sold, the more problems arise, including:



74% OF AUCKLANDERS THINK THAT ALCOHOL IS TOO EASY FOR PEOPLE TO GET HOLD OF (Auckland Council, 2011).

Having a large number of alcohol outlets in your area has a big impact on how young people in the area drink. Living in this environment means that young people are more likely to drink heavily than if they were living in an area with fewer alcohol outlets. This is partly due to the exposure to alcohol advertising and the normalisation of alcohol use that lots of outlets create.



SINCE 1989, THE NUMBER OF PLACES ALLOWED TO SELL ALCOHOL HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED - FROM 6,295 IN 1990 TO 14,184 IN 2009.

How can we make alcohol less available in our community?

There are a few things that have been shown to reduce the number of alcohol outlets in communities, and thereby reduce alcohol problems. Useful options include:

A REGIONAL CAP ON NEW ALCOHOL OUTLETS

Where only the current number of outlets remain for a certain period of time. New outlets may only be applied for if current outlets close or are shut down.

A LOCALISED SINKING LID ON ALCOHOL OUTLETS

Useful for local areas that already have high numbers of outlets, or that may be experiencing a great deal of problems related to alcohol. If alcohol outlets close or get shut down they will not be able to be replaced. This will mean that over time the number of alcohol outlets in an area will be reduced, thereby reducing alcohol problems in that area.

Do you think that alcohol outlets shouldn't be allowed to open near community facilities such as schools?

Where bars and liquor stores are located has an influence on the way that people drink. Some people in the community, such as young people and people with addiction issues, are more likely to experience alcohol related problems.

It would be useful to have a bit more control over where alcohol is allowed to be sold so that we can protect these community members. Community facilities such as schools, alcohol and drug treatment centres, rest homes, marae and places of worship could all benefit from being protected by locating alcohol outlets elsewhere.

Having a number of alcohol outlets close to schools



90% OF AUCKLANDERS AGREE THAT IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO PLACE LIQUOR OUTLETS NEAR SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PRIMARY SCHOOLS OR KINDERGARTENS (Auckland Council 2011).

means that children and young people are constantly exposed to alcohol advertising, which has been shown to encourage them to start drinking at an earlier age and to drink more.

How can we protect our families and communities from too much exposure to alcohol?

One way is to have a policy that stops new alcohol outlets from opening within a certain distance (e.g. 100 metres) of schools and other community facilities. Another option is for alcohol advertising to not be allowed near these facilities.

Alcohol outlets could also only be opened in business areas and away from suburban areas.

It would also be useful if communities are clearly made aware of any alcohol outlets that want to open near community facilities so they are able to take a stand and oppose if they wish.

We all have an interest in making Auckland a great place to live. To do this, alcohol problems need to be addressed. We encourage you to have your say and make a difference in the way alcohol is sold and purchased in your community.

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