



ALCOHOL
HEALTHWATCH

MEDIA RELEASE
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In a bid to curb the alcohol-related violence and unruly behaviour of previous events, promoters of the Mission Estate 2008 concert have issued ticket holders with a limit on the amount of alcohol that can be taken into tomorrow's event featuring Tom Jones.

Alcohol Healthwatch Director Rebecca Williams says that while the intention to limit consumption is to be commended the actual limit is inconsistent with this.

The limit of 2 bottles of wine or 12 cans of beer or 10 pre-mix drinks per person still enables high levels of intoxication and the behaviour that goes along with that. It could also send a message that this amount of alcohol is safe when it is anything but that.

Williams says that 2 bottles of wine equates to 14-16 standard drinks. Current New Zealand guidelines for low risk drinking recommend that adult males drink no more than 6 standard drinks and for adult females no more than 4 standard drinks on any single occasion.

Recently drafted Australian low-risk guidelines recommend no more than two standard drinks per day for both men and women.

Alcohol consumption in New Zealand is on an upward trend and the harms will be relative to this given our drinking patterns. Williams calls for event promoters to give more thought to the wider implications of their activities and make a more realistic effort to reduce the negative impact of alcohol on society. In fact they are obligated to do this by their liquor licence.

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