

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to this month's edition of the Hawke's Bay alcohol networks newsletter. It has been a busy couple of months in the alcohol space in Hawke's Bay. Read about some of our highlights below.

You may have seen some [media coverage last week](#) of a draft report prepared by our team and the business intelligence team on the place of alcohol in schools. This draft paper is currently in the process of seeking endorsement from our DHB committees before it goes before the board of Hawke's Bay District Health Board on 30 May. We will update you on the progress of this report in our next newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any questions or feedback, please let us know.

If you have any feedback or news you would like to share with the network, please let us know.

Ngā mihi nui,

HBDHB Alcohol and Healthy Populations team

In this issue:

- Mental Health and Addictions Inquiry – your chance to have your say
- *Actionpoint* website
- Taylor Hawks' launch alcohol free zone
- One for One at the Church Road
- Taking part in the licensing process: Results of the HPA's *Community Experience* survey
- MOH reflections on 'Tackling Big Booze'

Mental health and addictions inquiry - your opportunity to have your say

Right now, the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction panel are in the process of public consultation and want to hear the voices of the community, those with lived experience of mental health and addiction problems, people affected by suicide and those involved in preventing and responding to mental health and addiction problems.

The link between alcohol and mental health is clear: alcohol causes suicide and depressive disorders and aggravates existing mental health conditions.

This Inquiry is a once in a generation opportunity to highlight this relationship and contribute to identifying and addressing any unmet needs related to mental health and addiction in Aotearoa.

To find out more, [visit the Inquiry website](#)

Save the date: The Panel will be visiting Napier/Hastings on 7 June, we will let you know a venue once it is released.



GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO
Mental Health and Addiction
Oranga Tāngata, Oranga Whānau

A public health perspective on taxing harmful products



Although the opportunity to have your say on the Tax Working Group's review of the New Zealand tax system has passed, we recommend reading the latest public health perspective on taxing harmful products from the University of Otago public health experts. <https://blogs.otago.ac.nz/pubhealthexpert/2018/04/16/a-public-health-perspective-on-taxing-harmful-products/?platform=hootsuite>

Action Point Community website

Are you a community group interested in learning more about alcohol and the licensing process?

<http://www.actionpoint.org.nz/Our-Drinking-Culture>

Taylor Hawks' launch alcohol free zone

We are delighted to hear that as part of the 2018 NBL – Taylor Hawks Basketball season, the management have decided to enforce an alcohol free zone for all home games at the Pettigrew Green arena.

General Manager Kevin Waggs says this decision has not been made lightly and keeps with the 'basketball for all' philosophy shared by the team.

"We know that families sometimes like to avoid areas where alcohol is consumed. Therefore, to further encourage everyone to attend, we have decided to set aside an area where parents can bring young children to support their teams which is separated from the area where fans are permitted to enjoy an alcoholic beverage while watching the game. This ensures that everyone can feel comfortable in the environment that we have provided. We are excited for the 2018 season and want to make sure there is a place for everyone to come along and watch the game."

According to Waggs, Napier City Councillor, and Hawks Chairman, Keith Price wanted to set a template for sporting organisations when it came to alcohol management.

"When sports people represent their region at the highest level, it provides developing athletes with a platform to look up to. It's important to develop and support this by encouraging children and families of all ages to come along and support their sporting role models."

Waggs says the decision to instigate an alcohol free family zone demonstrates to the community that both Taylor Corp, the Hawks' major sponsor, and Taylor Hawks can make basketball a family game that can be enjoyed by everyone. For example, the \$2 gold coin entry for everyone has been continued this season so that no family should miss out on watching their favourite team due to financial barriers.

You can support the team and this great initiative by getting along to their next home game, [find out more here](#).

One for One

We were delighted to hear that the *One for One* brand has been championed by Church Road twice this summer at the John Butler Trio concert and The Big Easy.

One for One aims to increase host responsibility of alcohol consumption and to increase event-goers consumption of water when drinking alcohol.

Hopefully you have seen the *One for One* logo at events around Hawke's Bay.



Taking part in the licensing process: Results of the HPA's Community Experience

The Health Promotion Agency's recently released report exploring the experiences of communities that have taken part in activities (such as objecting to an alcohol licence application, participating in the development of a Local Alcohol Policy or being involved in other alcohol related matters) under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act has reiterated what we have heard from community members in Hawke's Bay.

Highlighted in the report are common frustrations when participating:

- A lack of time and resources and clear information on processes
- Unequal treatment and a feeling of 'amateurs against professionals'
- Intimidating settings, lawyers and processes
- Hearings are held at inconvenient times
- A lack of recognition of community views and participation by District Licensing Committees

Read the full report [here](#).



MOH reflections on 'Tackling Big Booze'

Members of my team and I were privileged enough to attend a workshop on Tackling Big Booze: Price, Promotion, Primary care and Politics at the Public Health Summer School in February. We heard from a fantastic line-up of speakers who challenged our thinking about alcohol's impact on society and what might be done about it, especially with a new government that has pledged for improvements in health, well-being and equity.

We are so fortunate in Aotearoa to have internationally respected and highly credible alcohol health researchers like Professors Jennie Connor and Sally Caswell, who both presented and expanded our horizons to think globally and act locally. The opportunity to achieve an increased price, following Scotland's recent success, were pitched as perfectly achievable.

Increasing [evidence of the risks of allowing the alcohol industry to position themselves as collaborators](#) in alcohol policy were discussed as well as the commercial determinants of health.

Excitingly, Māori health researchers brought news of the [Wai 2575 Health Services and Outcomes Kaupapa Inquiry Claim](#) to the Waitangi Tribunal. We heard stories of the use of alcohol during colonisation and the consequent harms to a people who had a complete aversion for alcohol up until the 1850's at least.

The association for Māori of loss of land and mana with increasing harms from alcohol is a very sad legacy given the disproportionate harm borne by Māori today.

In conclusion this workshop highlighted for me that there is much to do, and fortunately, with good evidence to support. In the meantime, we all have the opportunity to shine a light on the very real problems and solutions related to alcohol to promote healthier communities.

Dr Rachel Eyre, Medical Officer of Health.

