

POSITION ON REDUCING ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM

Hawke's Bay District Health Board Position

Harmful alcohol consumption is a major risk factor which contributes to the physical, mental and social ill-health in our community and to Māori: non-Māori health inequities in Hawke's Bay. This health and social burden is borne not just by drinkers but often by others.

The Hawke's Bay District Health Board recognises that the widespread promotion of and accessibility to alcohol has a significant role to play in people's drinking behaviour. Similarly, the DHB understands that the strongest measures to reduce alcohol-related harm operate at a policy level and include increasing price, reducing availability and reducing advertising.

Hawke's Bay District Health Board commits to taking a leadership role in reducing alcohol-related harm in our community. The first steps involve the DHB developing a high-level Strategy and a more detailed Implementation (and Communication) Plan to take action in collaboration with our stakeholders and community.

OUR VISION

"Healthy communities, family and whānau living free from alcohol-related harm and inequity"

The Core DHB Values that underpin the *process* for developing the DHB's Strategy and plans to address alcohol-related harm are:

Raranga te tira - Working in partnership across the community

The improvement of Māori outcomes will require lwi defined and led strategies
Community engagement and ownership will be critical to change attitudes to alcohol – related harm

Tauwhiro - High quality care

Effective strategies need to be evidence informed
Population-based prevention strategies are the most effective and efficient, where possible to deliver at the local level
Improving early intervention support and treatment has an important role

He kauanuanu - Showing respect to staff, patients and community

A harm minimisation approach is realistic for many people, accepting that target groups need tailored advice and strategies
Systems thinking is critical to develop strategies which work synergistically

Ākina - Continuous improvement

DHB leadership entails being a role model, e.g. holding alcohol-free events within our health system and thus leading the way towards moderation in the community
Relies on strengthened intelligence through improving health system data collection

The Hawke's Bay District Health Board is committed to supporting our government's [National Drug Policy 2015-2020](#)¹ to:

- reduce excessive drinking by adults and young people
- protect the most vulnerable members of our community when it comes to alcohol-related harm e.g. children and young people, pregnant women and babies (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder)
- reduce the harm caused by alcohol use including crime, disorder, public nuisance and negative public health outcomes
- support the safe and responsible sale, supply and consumption of alcohol
- improve community input into local alcohol licensing decisions
- improve the operation of the alcohol licensing system.

Further to the above, the Hawke's Bay District Health Board is committed to:

- reduce and eliminate alcohol and other drug-related harm inequities – particularly for Māori, young people, pregnant women and others who experience disproportionate alcohol-related harm in our community.

NEXT STEPS

The Hawke's Bay District Health Board will undertake the following next steps as a priority.

1. Identify the appropriate capacity and resource to lead the development of an Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and Implementation Plan.
2. Identify a governance and management structure to guide and provide an accountability mechanism for the Coordination and Strategy/Plan delivery.
3. Support high-level Champions within our health system and in the community to act as spokespersons and be credible role models to help shift staff, community, whanau, family and individual attitudes to reduce harmful alcohol consumption.
4. Identify the best way to input into the review and delivery of the Napier City and Hastings District Councils' Joint Alcohol Strategy to limit availability and promote safe, responsible drinking.
5. Establish the best method to engage the relevant departments across our DHB and PHO, and to engage with Iwi, Pasifika, young people and community (building on existing groups -Safer Communities, Māori NGOs etc), to develop appropriate strategies and to provide support.
6. Consider the development of a local Alcohol Coalition of NGOs and other agencies, akin to the Hawke's Bay Smokefree Coalition to build support at a community level.
7. Identify service gaps and priority objectives for local DHB action to include:
 - improved systems for health data collection/screening and brief intervention (e.g. in the Emergency Department, Maternity and Primary Care)
 - appropriate clinical referral pathways and treatment services
 - support for strong, consistent health messaging (such as no drinking in pregnancy).

¹ <http://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/national-drug-policy-2015-2020-aug15.pdf>

KEY OUTCOMES

Consistent with the National Drug Policy the key outcomes our District Health Board is striving for, include:

- Reduced hazardous drinking of alcohol
- Delayed uptake of alcohol by young people
- Reduced illness and injury from alcohol
- Changed attitudes towards alcohol and reduced tolerance for alcohol-related harms

November 2016

Position Statement Review date: July 2017 (6 months) and on a 3 year cycle thereafter.

LINKAGES

National Drug Policy Framework (2015-2020) (Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs, 2015)

Rising to the Challenge - The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan (2012-2017)

Hawke's Bay District Health Board:

Health Equity in Hawke's Bay (McElnay C 2014)

Health Equity in Hawke's Bay Update (McElnay C 2016)

Youth Health Strategy (2016-2019)

FASD Discussion Document (December 2015),

Intimate Partner Violence Intervention (Reviewed September 2016)

Mai, Māori Health Strategy (2014-2019)

Māori Health Annual Plan (2016 – 2017).