



Vol 10 No 1 March/April 2009

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ALCOHOL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND  
Kaunihera Whakatupato Waipiro o Aotearoa

## Features

Global Alcohol  
Strategy talks  
held in Auckland

Aussie Drinking  
Guidelines

Working Together  
Conference 2009



**alcohol.org.nz** is published quarterly by the Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand / te Kaunihera Whakatupato Waipiro o Aotearoa. An editorial committee oversees the newsletter.

The next issue of **alcohol.org.nz** will be published in June 2009.

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ISSN 1175-2831 (Print)

ISSN 1177-9578 (Online)

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**The Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand** was established by a 1976 Act of Parliament, under the name the Alcoholic Liquor Advisory Council (ALAC), following a report by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Sale of Liquor.

The Commission recommended establishing a permanent council whose aim was to encourage responsible alcohol use and minimise misuse.

ALAC's aims are pursued through policy liaison and advocacy, information and communication, research, intersectoral and community initiatives, and treatment development. ALAC is funded by a levy on all liquor imported into, or manufactured in, New Zealand for sale and employs 30 staff. The Council currently has eight members and reports to the Minister of Health.

Kia ora, Kia orana, Ni sa bula, Namaste, Taloha ni,  
Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa atu, Halo olaketa,  
Talofa lava, Greetings...



Gerard Vaughan  
Chief Executive Officer

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

On Friday 3 April 2009, I attended the *Drivers of Crime Ministerial* meeting co-hosted by Hon Simon Power, Minister of Justice and Hon Dr Peter Sharples, Minister of Māori Affairs. The meeting was attended by around 100 participants from a broad range of community, Government and state sector organisations.

Awareness of the harm alcohol can cause was high in the minds of many participants and the contribution of alcohol misuse to crime in New Zealand was a strong theme in break out discussions and report backs.

I was struck by the many similarities between ALAC's work in alcohol-harm reduction and the crime reduction task. For example, the importance of resourcing community-based activity was emphasised, as was the need for a coherent strategy and early intervention in a range of settings. Getting the legislation right, identifying what works and doing more of it, supporting solutions by Māori for Māori, and developing solutions for young people that don't blame but build on their strengths were also key themes.

Of course it's not surprising that alcohol should feature so prominently in a discussion on crime. The awareness of the harm alcohol can cause in our homes and for our whānau and communities is higher than ever. And this isn't just a local issue for New Zealand. In March, New Zealand hosted the WHO Asia Pacific technical consultation on the global alcohol strategy. 28 different countries attended this meeting.

Also in the last month two pieces of alcohol legislation have been before Parliament. The *Sale and Supply of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill* received good cross-party support in its first reading, and the *Alcohol Advisory Council Amendment Act* was passed into law. Although the ALAC Amendment Act is largely technical in nature and includes changes to how the ALAC levy is calculated, it was pleasing to hear MPs in the House from different parties speak about the need for urgency in addressing alcohol harm and of their ongoing support for the work we do in ALAC.

The Law Commission's review of liquor legislation in New Zealand is very timely given the level of concern around violence, crime and alcohol. The Law Commission will be completing a discussion document and consulting on alcohol issues and what can be done to address them via legislative means. There will important opportunities for us to continue to contribute our views over the coming few months.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Vaughan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Gerard Vaughan  
CEO

June 2009

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# Global Alcohol Strategy talks held in A

**The World Health Organisation (WHO) is developing a draft global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, in accordance with a resolution by the World Health Assembly that a draft strategy be developed in collaboration with member states, by 2010. As part of the consultation process, WHO is holding six meetings with member states around the world.**

On 24-26th March 2009 it was the turn of the Western Pacific Region. Representatives from 28 countries in the Western Pacific Region gathered in Auckland for one of the meetings to workshop strategies to reduce harmful use of alcohol, aided by a "discussion paper for regional technical consultations". Dr Vladimir Poznyak, Coordinator of Management of Substance Abuse, attended from the WHO headquarters in Geneva, as did Dr Wang Xiangdong, the Western Pacific Regional Advisor in Mental Health and Control of Substance Abuse. Hon Peter Dunne, Associate Minister of Health, opened the meeting with an address.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Ashley Bloomfield, Chief Advisor Public Health (Ministry of Health). Dr Bloomfield noted that "the countries represented at the meeting could not have been more diverse – from populous Asian countries like China, to islands of the Pacific, some with small populations such as Niue and Tokelau. Yet all the countries had issues around the harmful use of alcohol and recognised the need for a range of policies and interventions."

The countries represented had diverse alcohol markets, with different mixes of commercial alcohol production, imports and homebrew. The purpose of WHO's consultation process is to draw out the range of policy options and tools, and seek guidance from member states as to which policies a global strategy should encourage, how to account for diversity, and what practical steps need to be taken to help countries implement the strategy.

Alcohol is a development issue. As explained by Dr Poznyak, "alcohol consumption tends to rise as developing countries become more affluent. It is important that alcohol policy responses are developed alongside economic development. This is something that particularly affects countries with limited resources, such as the Pacific Islands."

A global alcohol strategy will support international, regional and national-level action on alcohol issues by being an authoritative document that officials and advocates can reference when engaging with decision-makers in their own countries.

The next stage in the development of the global alcohol strategy is that a document will be released in July 2009 for further consultation. It is expected that the strategy will be adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2010.

# ategy Auckland



The global alcohol strategy will complement regional strategies. Many readers will be aware of the Western-Pacific Regional Strategy to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm, and the draft regional plan of action.

As for the Auckland talks, by all accounts these were a success, with the WHO delegates leaving with the information they wanted, Auckland putting on sunny mild weather, and participants also enjoying a couple of evening social occasions hosted by the Ministry of Health, ALAC and the NZ Drug Foundation. We look forward to the global alcohol strategy coming to fruition.

New Zealand was represented by Chris Laurenson, Team Leader, National Drug Policy, Ministry of Health, and Gerard Vaughan, CEO of ALAC. The meetings were chaired by Dr Ashley

Bloomfield, Chief Advisor Public Health (Ministry of Health). Also participating as an advisor to WHO was Prof Sally Casswell (SHORE).

**For more about the global alcohol strategy:**

[http://www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/en/](http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/en/)

**Hon Peter Dunne's address:**

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/address+open+world+health+organisation+western+pacific+region+technical+meeting>

# Aussie Drinking G

The Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has issued guidelines for reducing Australians' lifetime risk of alcohol-related injury or disease.

For both sexes, two standard drinks a day over a lifetime is the limit to keep that risk below a one-in-100 chance of dying as a result of drinking.

The guidelines include a new four-drink guideline for drinking on a single occasion, like going to the pub, having a drink with friends or having drinks at home. (A single occasion is defined in the guidelines as a sequence of drinks taken without blood alcohol concentration reaching zero in between). For healthy men and women, drinking no more than four standard drinks on a single occasion reduces the risk of alcohol related injury arising from that occasion.

Professor Jon Currie, Chair of NHMRC's Expert Working Committee on Alcohol Guidelines said "The guidelines aren't telling you what you can or can't do. They aim to help Australians make their own informed choices about alcohol and how much risk they want to take with their health. Two standard drinks a day keeps your risk below 1 chance in 100 of dying as a result of drinking. This is slightly less than your risk of dying in a car accident one day."

"The new guidelines are based on the risk over a lifetime, and provide advice on lowering your risk from alcohol-related harm, but ultimately it's your choice."

The Council expressed concerns about youth binge drinking, stating there is no safe level of alcohol consumption for people under 18, and warning parents against giving older children small amounts of alcohol. The earlier draft said 15 to 17-year-olds could consume some alcohol under parental supervision.

The new guidelines also advise women who are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding not to drink.

**One standard drink is the equivalent to one 330ml can of mid-strength (four percent alcohol) beer or 100ml of wine or 30ml of spirits.**

Under the old 2001 Australian guidelines, men could have up to four drinks a day before being considered to be drinking at a risky level.

The guidelines released in early March have been altered since a draft was released in October 2007 draft stating that two drinks a day constituted an immediate health risk with critics saying they were socially unacceptable and alarmist.

Prof Currie was reported in the Australian press as saying he expected the new guidelines would set the standard internationally, as they were the first to include information on the lifetime risks associated with alcohol consumption.

"We think it will probably really become the standard way guidelines are done in the future for other countries," he said.

# Guidelines

Commenting on the Australian guidelines, ALAC Chief Executive Officer Gerard Vaughan said ALAC's levels for responsible drinking recommend no more than six drinks for men and four for women on a single occasion and over a week no more than 21 for men and 14 for women, plus at least two alcohol-free days a week.

"These levels are only general guidelines," he said. "Some people should not drink at all, for example, those with certain medical conditions, on medication or those with a dependence problem. ALAC advises pregnant women or those attempting to get pregnant to avoid all alcohol. It is good to see the new Australia guidelines now give the same advice.

"Our advice is focused on limiting binge drinking, that is going out and getting drunk, which is the most hazardous drinking pattern in this country. This focus differs from the new Australian guidelines which focus on low risk drinking over a life time."

Mr Vaughan said ALAC would look at the Australian evidence and consider whether low risk drinking guidelines over a lifetime should be developed for New Zealand.

Mr Vaughan also said it was timely to consider within its current advice on young peoples' drinking whether to include an age below which young people should not drink.

Mr Vaughan said ALAC's advice to parents was they should try to delay their children starting to drink alcohol for as long as possible.

"We now have this Australian research saying teenagers under 18 should not drink," he said. "This follows the release of a consultation document earlier in the year from the United Kingdom warning that children under 15-years-old should never be given alcohol - even in small amounts.

"Locally we have research from the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study at the University of Otago that found young people using alcohol or other drugs before the age of 15 more than doubles the risk of damaging their health into adulthood."

Mr Vaughan said it was timely to ask the question of whether a set age should be part of ALAC's advice on teenage drinking.

The Australian Guidelines can be found at [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)

## Focus on alcohol-related harm for sexual minorities

The Alcohol Advisory Council (ALAC) is exploring its role in reducing alcohol-related harms for takataapui, gay, lesbian and bisexual (TLGB) communities.

"We have commissioned some research to help identify potential ways of working with these communities," said Gerard Vaughan, ALAC Chief Executive Officer.

"Robust evidence has emerged about disparities in alcohol use between sexual minority populations and heterosexual populations in New Zealand," Mr Vaughan said.

"A 2007 study of data from the large-scale, official New Zealand Health Behaviours Surveys on drug use and on alcohol use was conducted by Massey University researchers. It found that lesbian and bisexual women were more likely than heterosexual-identified women to engage in alcohol use over the last year. Also, the same was found for gay and bisexual men compared to their straight counterparts."

"Overseas studies that have recently been conducted support these national findings, and some studies show that heavy alcohol use amongst TLGB communities is linked to partner violence, engaging in HIV-risk behaviours and sexual coercion."

Mr Vaughan said the main aims of the research were to look at the experiences and key issues for these groups around alcohol-related harm and to identify future opportunities and strategies that ALAC and its partners could look to implement to reduce alcohol-related harms for TLGB communities.

# Law Commission Review Update

**Law Commission President Sir Geoffrey Palmer and members of the review team have met with many groups and individuals with an interest in alcohol issues. These meetings have included: representatives of all major government departments; leading health researchers; judges; liquor producers and retailers; licensing and enforcement agencies; local bodies; health practitioners; and a range of advocacy groups.**

Team members have also been spending time with Police familiarising themselves with the various drinking cultures in New Zealand and in particular getting exposure to the problems associated with early morning ( 1-5am ) drinking in some of our major cities and towns.

Sir Geoffrey Palmer says, “the central issue in this inquiry is what harms can reasonably be reduced, and how, without putting unreasonable restriction on people. It is a question of balance. The essence of the balance lies in the careful analysis of the particular harms that can be shown and the methods of combating them that are available.”

Sir Geoffrey explains that the Minister of Justice, Hon Simon Power, has made it clear that liquor issues are a matter of priority. The new timetable is as follows. The Law Commission will produce a public discussion paper by 31 July 2009. This will outline the nature and extent of the problems and pose the key questions for public debate. It will include an explanation of the principles underlying the regulation of alcohol and the international context for New Zealand’s review.

“The paper will be written in an accessible manner. It will be designed to assist the media and the community to engage in informed debate. It will not contain detailed policy and recommendations. That will come in the final report. What the paper will do on this occasion is to frame the issues in a way that enables public feedback on the key policy options under consideration.

The Law Commission proposes to lead a nationwide consultation on these issues and alongside traditional community meetings and forums, will also be making use of new media to encourage engagement beyond the obvious stakeholders.”

Sir Geoffrey Palmer will speak at ALAC’s Working Together Conference in May, and the Law Commission liquor team will lead a workshop where they hope to get feedback on some key issues for the discussion paper.

# Recent LLA decisions reflect the changing state of play



Over 100 community members march to the Porirua District Court to hear the “Creek Liquor Store” application, chanting “No more liquor stores”.

**There have been a few recent decisions of the Liquor Licensing Authority (LLA) that are changing the face of liquor enforcement and liquor licensing issues across New Zealand.**

**ALAC congratulates the LLA, for what seems to be a changing attitude towards the issuing of licences and dealing with enforcement applications, in light of the heightened public conversation regarding alcohol related harm and liquor abuse issues across New Zealand.**

One such decision to receive praise from public health and enforcement agencies was the refusal to grant a full off-licence to The Warehouse in Albany. Dr Andrew Hearn from ALAC provided a submission to the LLA and contended that, “opening the market for spirits and RTDs to large retail chains would result in further discounting and increased harm to young people.” In its decision, the Authority recognised that two department stores with complementary style off-licences may not technically qualify for the licences, and may need to have those licences reviewed. The Authority also heard from the Police, the Hospitality Association, the District Licensing Agency and the Medical Officer of Health. All opposed the issuing of the licence.

Another decision to make headlines was the Creek Liquor Store, in Cannons Creek, Porirua East. This application raised a high level of discontent among a range of social service agencies and community members, regarding the lack of community say in licensing decisions. This community mobilised, opposing the liquor licence, and gathering much public support along the way. In the hearing, the Authority heard from the Medical Officer of Health for the region who sought to establish that such a community, with a poor level of health, would be adversely affected by the increased availability of alcohol. This, coupled with a number of other objectors, representing the Porirua Alcohol and Drug Cluster, health workers, church leaders and schools (to name a few) provided added weight to the Authorities

continued over

# Recent LLA decisions reflect the changing state of play (continued)

decision. In his decision, Judge Unwin stated, “the evidence given by Dr Palmer and the objectors was excellently presented and quite overwhelming. Its combined force persuaded us that if this particular application were to be granted, an increase in liquor abuse and alcohol related harm in this community would be likely.” The application was refused by the Authority.

## Over 100 community members march to the Porirua District Court to hear the “Creek Liquor Store” application, chanting “No more liquor stores”.

Henry’s Beer, Wine and Spirits Hallswell (PH 1789/2008) also found the public objecting to their application for an off-licence in Christchurch. Two residents appeared in support of their objections to the issue of the licence, and provided a petition with over 800 signatures along with their submissions. The Authority granted the licence with less trading hours than originally sought, but made the following comments in its decision. “We believe that the retail initiative known as loss leading needs to be looked at more seriously by licensees. If a licensee uses liquor to loss lead, then he or she is stimulating, and not meeting demand. Where liquor is involved, it is not good enough for a licensee to say that they have to continue with this business practice because of competition. Most licensees understand that they are dealing with a drug, and that they have a duty under the [Sale of Liquor] Act to help them promote the reduction of liquor abuse. In our experience loss leading helps to promote the abuse of liquor.” The Authority goes on to say, “in future, examples of loss leading by an off- licensee will be treated as an indication of lack of suitability.”

Other notable LLA Decisions, include the introduction of new minimum food standards (Empire Hotel decision, PH 1652/2008). The proposed guidelines are to apply to all premises, apart from restaurants and off-licences, from mid-2009.

They state:

- The range of food must be readily available at all times that the premises are open.
- Menus must be highly visible and food should be actively promoted using a variety of mediums, e.g menus on the tables, a board, or food on display. Food should also be advertised in any outdoor areas.
- Bar staff are expected to actively promote the range of food options.
- A minimum of three types of food should be available. e.g paninis, pizzas, lasagne, pies, toasted or fresh sandwiches, wedges, filled rolls, and/or salads. (This does not mean three types of pie.)
- It is acceptable to have a menu from neighbouring premises to provide for one or two of these options. However, there must be a back up option that could be produced on site.
- A minimum standard to be accepted on site would be a microwave or fryer and utensils, and a supply of a variety of ‘long life’ meals that do not require temperature control, or tins of soup and rolls. There should be an area for preparation of food and utensils for service of the food.

An interesting case in Auckland City (PH 130-133/2009) helped confirm that the Act prohibits selling full bottles of spirits for consumption on licensed premises (s154(a) of the Act), and s.169(1) prohibits the sale of spirits in otherwise than a vessel of less than 500ml. In this case, the karaoke bar concerned was found to be selling one-litre jugs that contained tea with 200ml of whisky. It was also observed by the officers that there were “vomit basins” available for customers within the premises. One in the hall, and one in the ladies toilet. The licensee argued that such “vomit basins” were decorative and they were needed, to retain the company’s status as a five-star karaoke business.

Finally, the Authority has cancelled the licence for Te Awamutu Wines and Spirits, making the following comments. “In our view, the four sales to minors in the past two years call for severe consequences. Accordingly, we intend to cancel the licence.”

# PROJECT CARV

## a model of success

**The delivery of Project CARV (Curbing Alcohol-Related Violence) has just been completed. It was a comprehensive two year Justice and Policy Programme to reduce alcohol-related violence in selected geographic areas. The project sites were Queenstown, Rotorua and Napier/Hastings.**

**The final meeting of the three projects was held in January 2009. This gave the project managers from each of the areas an opportunity to demonstrate the achievements of the projects. Apart from hearing about the impressive accomplishments of the three projects, it was an opportunity to reflect on what made Project CARV successful as a project model.**

Those attending commented that many nationally driven projects are regarded with a degree of skepticism because they are too prescriptive, defining exactly what is to be achieved and carrying the risk of committing local services to ongoing funding at the end of the project.

Success Ingredients:

- Funded centrally but did not prescribe what was to be achieved
- Addressed local needs by starting with a needs analysis for the project areas
- Produced an action plan based on local needs
- Developed local solutions supported by local steering groups
- Having a project manager at each site was crucial for success
- Having the right agencies and people involved as part of a national reference group and local steering groups
- Regular inter-regional meetings so that project managers and steering groups were informed of initiatives and issues from the other sites
- Having strong support from the Ministry of Justice and interagency collaboration and support
- Critical to have Police and Local Authority support
- Local evaluation of projects
- Addressing sustainability early on in the life of the project

While Project CARV has come to the end of its two year term, it is encouraging that local interagency groups at the three sites have been able to find ways to continue the gains made by the projects. The project model has had the right ingredients for success and is a framework that other projects could learn from.



The Project CARV (Curbing Alcohol Related Violence) Team at the project completion presentation in Wellington

# Alcohol and Community Safety Regional Forums

Over the last few months ALAC has been partnering with Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ) in the North Island and Sandra James, contracted by the Ministry of Health in the South Island to deliver regional forums on alcohol and community safety.

These forums have taken place in:

- North Auckland (North Shore, Rodney, Waitakere) with 60 attendees
- New Plymouth (New Plymouth, Stratford) with 60 attendees
- Christchurch (Christchurch, Kaikoura, Selwyn, Waimakariri, Hurunui, Ashburton, Timaru) with 82 attendees
- Wellington (Wellington, Porirua, Hutt City, Upper Hutt, and Kapiti Coast) with 40 attendees
- Bay of Plenty (Tauranga, Rotorua, Taupo, Western Bay of Plenty, Whakatane, Kawerau) with 75 attendees
- Wanganui (Wanganui, Rangitikei) with 35 attendees

Another three meetings are planned for the South Island.

The forums have been sponsored by New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy (NZIPS) as part of the NZIPS implementation plan. They were developed to provide opportunities for local authorities, local community organisations, statutory partners and local businesses to meet and have dialogue around reducing alcohol-related harm and creating safe and vibrant communities.

Each forum had its own flavour and focused on different priorities depending on the area and the issues they faced. However, all of the forums were focused around working together to reduce alcohol-related harm and developing either local or regional plans for doing this.

The sessions started with the groups dividing up into their local areas and identifying the main issues in their community. Although there was some variation around the country, there were some common issues that came up in all areas, such as transport, drink driving, drinking amongst under 18 year olds,

lack of meaningful and timely alcohol/community safety data, price of alcohol and the availability of alcohol, especially Ready to Drinks (RTDs). Other issues that were also relatively common throughout the country were issues around the link between alcohol and workplaces, older people and alcohol, female drinking, outlet density, and alcohol-related violence.

The final session in each forum was to decide “where to from here?” The responses varied from place to place. Many of the areas made a commitment to work more closely to ensure alignment of key issues and outcomes. Consistency was a term that came up at many of the forums. Some suggestions for ensuring consistency included the attendees keeping in touch with each other (both locally and regionally) through methods such as e-mail networks or through more specific methods. For example, North Auckland felt it was useful for the local authority policy staff to meet regularly given that several of them were in the process of reviewing their liquor policies. In Wellington, a commitment was made to closer working relationships with the objective of moving towards a regional alcohol harm reduction strategy. New Plymouth used the opportunity to engage with the community on their draft regional alcohol action plan with the aim of confirming the five objectives and the respective activities planned.

There was also a desire to develop local submissions on the new Sale and Supply of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill and the Law Commission Review of the Sale of Liquor Act 1989. The ability to contribute to these pieces of legislation was seen as a huge opportunity for local communities to have input into shaping the future legislation to ensure it reflected the needs of their own communities.

The vast majority of attendees acknowledged that improving community safety by focusing on reducing alcohol-related harm was “an excellent collaborative initiative which aligned well with national government goals of building a positive safety culture and safer environments for all New Zealanders.” The challenge lies in identifying and agreeing on relevant outcomes, obtaining meaningful and timely local alcohol/community safety data and securing support for sustainable evidence-based community initiatives.

# Working Together Conference 2009

**ALAC is pleased to be hosting the 2009 Working Together Conference at the InterContinental Hotel in Wellington on 14-15 May 2009. All the latest information for the conference, including electronic registration and information on accommodation options can be found on the ALAC website: <http://www.alac.co.nz/UpComingEvents.aspx>.**

**The conference planning is well underway and we are pleased to advise that we have secured a quality international keynote speaker from Scotland, Dr Peter Rice. Dr Rice will be updating the sector on leading developments in the Scottish alcohol policy environment, as well as helping New Zealand understand the potential for brief intervention in a wide range of settings.**

We are also pleased to be hosting the Law Commission, leading a discussion on the review of New Zealand's regulatory framework on alcohol. They will update the conference on their progress as well as advising on opportunities to feed into the review.

## **Abstracts for stream session presentations**

We have received a number of high quality abstracts for the conference:

**Policy and legislation:** lessons learned in the effective enforcement of liquor laws, innovative projects aimed at achieving compliance, policy discussions or workshop.

**Community action:** examples of community action from 2008/09, planned community action projects, innovative 'promising practice' projects.

**Health:** efforts to reduce the harm from alcohol in the health sector, raising the profile of the health sector in the organised efforts to reduce alcohol-related harm.

**Local government:** developing an alcohol strategy and alcohol policy at a local level.

**Research:** research in the alcohol area and examples of local research projects.

## **Pre-conference Sector Group Meetings – 13 May 2009**

The day prior to the conference has been traditionally used as a day for sector groups, or groups of people to meet regarding a subject. This year, there will be three pre-conference meetings: community action, alcohol accords, and planning for alcohol. These meetings will occur after lunch, providing an opportunity for like-minded people to workshop 'what works' and opportunities and challenges in their field. A brief paragraph follows about each workshop.

## **Pre Conference Sector Group Meeting – 'Community Action'**

"At the heart of Community Action is the empowerment of communities, their ownership and control of their own endeavours and destinies" (Ottawa Charter)

continued over

# Working Together Conference 2009 (continued)

An increasing number of strategic/project plans and job descriptions carry the terms; Community Action; Community Action Funding; Community Action initiatives; collaborative and interactive community action intervention!! But what does all this mean in relation to the above definition of Community Action? This sector group meeting will discuss this, look at some existing community action models and explore ways that agencies and organisations involved in Community Action can work together in the spirit of inclusion and collaboration.

## **Pre Conference Sector Group Meeting – ‘Alcohol Accords’**

Over the past few years we have seen great examples of collective practical approaches towards addressing alcohol harms in the community through Alcohol Accords. This sector group meeting provides an opportunity for alcohol accord representatives from around New Zealand to network, share ideas, what works, pitfalls and highlights and further explore the role in which accords can play in influencing the combined efforts to reduce alcohol related harm. Come and be a part of discussions, and investigate opportunities for alcohol accords in the future.

## **Pre Conference Sector Group Meeting –‘Planning for Alcohol’**

Alcohol-related harm is an issue for many communities. Research shows that people’s drinking behaviour is influenced by their local environment and that communities can do a great deal to reduce alcohol-related harm. What is local government’s role in reducing alcohol-related harm and does it go beyond liquor licensing? What are some options for Council’s to work with others in reducing alcohol related harm and what are the challenges? This sector group meeting will provide an opportunity for people working in local authorities to come together and discuss these issues, to better plan for alcohol in the community and to hear examples of ways that local authorities are making a difference.

If you would like to attend any of the pre-conference sector group meetings, please RSVP to Andrew Galloway at [a.galloway@alac.org.nz](mailto:a.galloway@alac.org.nz) stating which meeting you would like to attend (for catering purposes).

We look forward to seeing you at Working Together 2009.

## **International Keynote Speaker – Dr Peter Rice, Scotland**

*Dr Peter Rice is a member of the Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP) Executive Committee. Dr Rice is one of Scotland’s leading medical voices on alcohol and has played a key role in influencing the Scottish Government on the areas of alcohol services and effective alcohol policy. He currently works as Consultant Psychiatrist with NHS Tayside Alcohol Problems Service and has pioneered a service based on a population model.*

*Tayside was the first area in Scotland to develop a Primary Care liaison service with an established programme of screening and brief interventions with 95% GP participation. The service developed by Dr Rice is seen as the ‘gold standard’ in Scotland.*

*Dr Rice is an Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Medical School, University of Dundee and has published in the BMJ and other journals. He is an accomplished public speaker and, in addition to his involvement with SHAAP, he is the Vice Chair of Scotland’s largest NGO dealing with alcohol - Alcohol Focus Scotland.*

*Dr Rice is currently a member of the Scottish Government’s Alcohol Brief Interventions Delivery Team and recently chaired a Ministerial working group on Mental Health and Substance Misuse and has very valuable experience covering both clinical practice and the implementation of national policy.*

# Drug policy symposium an unprecedented event

**Organisers are calling the Healthy Drug Law Symposium held in February, the most significant drug policy discussion in New Zealand's history.**

The invitation-only International Drug Policy Symposium – Through the Maze: Healthy Drug Law was held in Wellington 18-19 February. Its agenda included discussion of a number of drug-related local issues, including the review of New Zealand's 1975 Misuse of Drugs Act by the independent Law Commission.

The symposium was also a precursor to a March meeting of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna where the direction of global drug policy for the next 10 years was set.

NZ Drug Foundation Executive Director, Ross Bell, said the range and importance of speakers at the symposium was unprecedented.

“Never before have so many drug and policy experts from here and from overseas been gathered in one place in New Zealand. It was incredible opportunity to discuss drug policy issues and make recommendations on what drug policy and legislation should look like both nationally and internationally.”

Speakers from around the world included government advisors, United Nations officials, academics and leaders of highly-effective non-government organisations. New Zealand government ministers, police officials, judges and representatives from the Law Commission also attended.

Mr Bell said New Zealand's Misuse of Drugs Act is hopelessly out of step with our National Drug Policy and inadequate to cope with current and emerging drug use patterns.

“Now, more than ever, in-depth discussion is needed about what the nature of New Zealand's drug law and policy should be. It's also a situation occurring in most other countries. The ways people are using drugs and the drugs available are changing radically and, in many cases, traditional approaches aimed at reducing the consequences of drug use have had little effect.”



Associate Minister of Health, Hon Peter Dunne: “Relaxing the current laws on cannabis is not on this Government's agenda.”



Ross Bell of the New Zealand Drug Foundation



Sandeep Chawla (UNODC), Ross Bell (NZ Drug Foundation), Tuari Potiki (ALAC) and Margaret Hamilton (Australian National Council on Drugs)

# Community Alcohol

**‘At the heart of Community Action is the empowerment of communities, their ownership and control of their own endeavours and destinies’ (Ottawa Charter, 1986)**

**ALAC is establishing a Community Alcohol Action Fund (CAAF) in 2009 to fund community based alcohol action projects.**

The Community Alcohol Action Fund will contribute to ALAC’s strategy of sharing responsibility for changing the drinking culture with individuals, communities and NGOs and to recognising our unique relationship with Māori and ensuring our Treaty of Waitangi obligations are reflected in all we do.

Over the past 5 years, most of ALAC’s community action work has been in relation to Youth Access to Alcohol (YATA) projects. More than 30 communities have been supported through the programme to reduce alcohol-related harm with young people mainly through supply control initiatives.

However, ALAC has also funded and supported many other community action initiatives that aim to reduce alcohol-related harm via its Māori, Pacific and Regional programmes such as Te Rununga O Te Whanau, Te Tai Rawhiti Community Action and numerous other work with hard to reach communities. There have also been training opportunities including Strengthening Community Action on Alcohol (SCAoA) for those involved in community alcohol action projects. Until now these initiatives have been provided in an ad hoc manner and spread throughout a range of separate ALAC programmes and initiatives.

From July 2009, all of ALAC’s community funding and sponsorship activities will be managed via the Community Alcohol Action Fund. Towards the end of the current financial year application and information packs will be available through the ALAC website and List Serves with a view to the first round of funding allocations being made in the first quarter of the 2009/10 financial year. Further funding rounds will follow on a six monthly basis. There will be some flexibility for applications for sponsorship of events that miss the six monthly timeline, and this will be detailed in the application and information packs.

## **Objectives and Criteria**

ALAC’s Strategic Direction 2008 – 2013 describes how we will use a participatory approach to working with communities to find local solutions for local issues that will achieve change. The Strategic Direction also states that ALAC has a role in facilitating and encouraging a range of action while supporting local ownership of issues and tailoring solutions to meet the needs of each community.

The introduction of the Community Alcohol Action Fund will build on the social marketing campaign’s success of raising the public awareness of the harms associated with alcohol misuse by

# Action Fund

supporting and resourcing communities to undertake and manage projects appropriately tailored for their communities.

The Community Alcohol Action Fund will support community action projects that reduce alcohol related harm. Preference will be given to projects that:

- target ALAC's priority population groups - Maori, Pacific peoples and Young People
- assist ALAC's strategic direction and messages to be echoed, made relevant and acted on in local communities
- build local leadership and community ownership and commitment to the prevention of alcohol related harm and support local change
- encourage local agencies and community organisations to work collaboratively to prevent alcohol related harm
- explore opportunities to jointly fund or otherwise cooperate with regard to supporting community based activities, with other community funding organisations that have objectives in common with ALAC or that are aligned to ALAC's strategic objectives.

"Community action" is about mobilising communities. Community action projects draw on existing human and material resources in the community to strengthen public participation in a community issue. They are time limited short to medium term projects that:

- define the issue in a manner that is relevant and meaningful to the community
- involve community members and groups in developing strategies to address it
- endeavour to solve the issue
- work towards transferring responsibility for ongoing project ownership to the community.

## Eligibility and Assessment criteria

Funding eligibility and assessment criteria has been established to ensure funded activities focus on achieving ALAC's strategic objectives

### Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for funding projects must:

- work towards achieving one or more of ALAC objectives, that is:

- to increase awareness of alcohol related harm, so that it becomes visible and constructively talked about throughout New Zealand
- to increase understanding of alcohol related harm and its many impacts
- to create a social climate that supports behavioural change,
- be "*community action*" projects (Community Action is aimed at changing particular behaviours, practices and/or policies through a participatory and educational process involving a range of community, voluntary sector and central and local government stakeholders),
- be community based, working with or for communities (for example, not just be the local face of a national programme), **and**
- be time limited, short to medium term projects with a start and finish date, that do not require ongoing funding

### Assessment criteria

All eligible applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria. That is, the panel will assess the degree to which the project:

- reflects and supports community needs
- is likely to achieve the project outcomes / objectives, which will include considering factors such as:
- does the project have clearly stated, realistic project objectives?
- is the project supported by logical / sound project planning? (e.g. realistic funding, milestones and timeframes?)
- does the project have access to people with relevant skills and experience?
- is likely to create ongoing and sustainable change beyond the funded project term
- involves collaboration with and support from other key organisations
- includes a logical and effective review / evaluation component
- demonstrates value for money

Further information is available by phoning us on 04 917 0060 or freephone 0508 258 258 or email us at [central@alac.org.nz](mailto:central@alac.org.nz)



# Cutting Edge September 2009

## Te toka tū moana

*Cutting Edge* is the national alcohol and addiction treatment conference. The 2009 conference will be the 14<sup>th</sup> and for as many years with the sponsorship and critical support of the Alcohol Advisory Council. This year, DAPAANZ (Drug and Alcohol Practitioners' Association) picks up the hosting mantle from the National Addiction Centre and puts out the call for the practitioners to come. With principal support from ALAC and the Ministry of Health, and further support from the Mental Health Commission and the Drug Foundation, DAPAANZ is keen to further develop this opportunity for the workforce to learn and to be strengthened for the coming year.

With around 400 participants, it is very much the gathering of the clans in the sector with pre-conference meetings (9<sup>th</sup>), the conference proper (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>) and post-conference workshops led by the keynote presenters (12<sup>th</sup>).

The gathering will be at Our Place, Te Papa in Wellington. Reflecting that, the theme for 2009 will be **Our Place, Our Future**. Gambling, smoking cessation and mental health workers are especially welcome to join with alcohol and drug practitioners and consumers to make this truly an alcohol and addictions conference.

### *New Attractions*

This year, Cutting Edge is evolving into fewer, longer, more intensive sessions intended to increase benefits to participants. Keynote speakers and stream presenters will have more time to develop their theme. There will be a greater concentration on treatment interventions that address wellness, recovery from dependence and the work we do with our clients.

The conference proper has been shortened from two and a half days to two; however a full third day has been added as a conference supplement with skills-based workshops led by key note speakers.

**DAPAANZ associate and registered practitioners** can earn **25 points** for attending, **40 points** if presenting, and all **DAPAANZ members** will enjoy a reduced registration fee.

### *Keynote Speakers*

**George De Leon:** Director of the Center for Therapeutic Community Research at National Development and Research Institutes, Inc. in New York City.

**Steve Onken:** an associate faculty appointment with the School of Social Work and the Social Science Research Institute of University of Hawai'i. He focuses on innovative research to support an emerging evidence base for service user, indigenous and cultural approaches to mental health wellbeing and recovery.

Registration opens end May 2009

*For further details and to register your interest:*

[www.cmsl.co.nz/go/cuttingedge](http://www.cmsl.co.nz/go/cuttingedge)

## Electronic mailing lists for the alcohol and drug field

Two electronic mailing lists have been set up to enable individuals to communicate via email with other alcohol and drug professionals in New Zealand.

You can either subscribe to a general mailing list or register to connect to a network of Māori alcohol and drug workers.

## SUBSCRIBE NOW

Contact other alcohol and drug professionals:

1. If you have access to the web, subscribe by going to <http://lists.iconz.co.nz/mailman/listinfo/aandd>

You will find a form to fill out. You will need to choose a password.

2. If you don't have access to the web, send an email message to [aandd-request@lists.iconz.co.nz](mailto:aandd-request@lists.iconz.co.nz) leaving the subject line blank.

In the body of the message, type:

Subscribe \*\*\*\*\* (where \*\*\*\*\* is an alphanumeric password of your choice between 4 and 8 characters).

If you have any problems with the above, or for further information, please contact:

Email: [central@alac.org.nz](mailto:central@alac.org.nz)

Phone: 04 917 0060

Join a network of Māori alcohol and drug workers:

1. If you have access to the web, subscribe by going to [http://lists.iconz.co.nz/mailman/listinfo/te\\_kupenga\\_hauora](http://lists.iconz.co.nz/mailman/listinfo/te_kupenga_hauora)

You will find a form to fill out. You will need to choose a password.

2. If you don't have access to the web, send an email message to [central@alac.org.nz](mailto:central@alac.org.nz)

Phone: 04 917 0060

### REGIONAL OFFICES

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WELLINGTON 04 917 0060 [central@alac.org.nz](mailto:central@alac.org.nz)

CALL FREE 0508 258 258

**Know how much** alcohol you're really drinking

*A swill of old english bitter*

*A tumbler of gin and tonic*

*A wallop of blue curacao*

*A mouthful of vermouth*

*A guzzle of ice cold beer*

*A hint of coffee liqueur*

*A morsel of chardonnay*

*A sip of gewürztraminer*

*A swallow of triple-sec*

*A nip of peach schnapps*

*A refresher of riesling*

*A droplet of white rum*

*A savour of sangiovese*

*A smidgen of semillon*

*A try of red bordeaux*

*A taste of champagne*

*A touch of zinfandel*

*A taste of pinot noir*

*A tall rum and cola*

*A wee bit of absinthe*

*A sampler of scotch*

*A taster of sambuca*

*A snifter of brandy*

*A shot of advocaat*

*A whiff of bourbon*

*A tickle of sangria*

*A stein of pale ale*

*A dab of drambuie*

*A splash of bubbly*

*A swig of madeira*

*A little pinot gris*

*A wink of tequila*

*A jigger of vodka*

*A dash of cognac*

*A pitcher of wine*

*A drop of whisky*

*A scull of red ale*

*A quick draught*

*A quaff of stout*

*A tad of muscat*

*A vessel of lager*

*A tidbit of port*

*A tippie of rum*

*A tester of rosé*

*A wink of saké*

*A bit of shiraz*

*A spot of gin*

*A gulp of vodka and lemonade*

*A drizzle of peppermint schnapps*

It's easy, just look out for the **Standard Drinks** measure, on all bottles and cans of alcohol, or for more information visit [www.alac.org.nz](http://www.alac.org.nz) and check out the Straight Up Guide.





Vol 10 No 1 March/April 2009

# alcohol.org.nz

ALCOHOL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND  
Kaunihera Whakatupato Waipiro o Aotearoa

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