

Local government : Our place in the world

Local Government New Zealand Conference 26 - 29 July 2009

Alcohol in our communities: are we past the tipping point?

Scope of Presentation

- Outline response of Manukau City Council to
 - public outcry over the proliferation of bottle stores
 - alcohol-related violence and proposed changes to liquor legislation.



Response

– Focus Strategy Review & Immediate Actions



- Focus review of current Alcohol Strategy on regulatory tools
 - Liquor licensing
 - Location
 - Liquor bans
 - Advocacy to government for legislative change

- Undertake actions that have immediate impact on the ground

Action 1

- Research



- Research by Waikato University commissioned by Alcohol Advisory Council in partnership with Manukau City Council
- Research to provide empirical evidence to support review of liquor licensing and location controls

Action 1

- Research



- Findings to Date:
 - Link between liquor outlets and alcohol-related problems highly context specific
 - Community consider small stand-alone off-licence outlets most problematic
 - Off-licence outlets locate in areas of high deprivation
 - Areas of higher outlet (off-license) density have:
 - Lowest prices
 - Longest opening hours
 - Later closing times

Action 1

- Research continued



➤ Next Steps

- Model relationship between alcohol related harm and outlet density to establish:
 - The extent to which liquor outlets cause alcohol related harms
 - The effect of changes to opening hours, price and location on those alcohol related harms

Action 2

- Submissions to Proposed Legislation



- Submissions to both Liquor Bills currently before parliament focussed on formal recognition for Local Alcohol Plans in legislation

- Actively participating in Law Commission review, with a particular focus on
 - Liquor licensing
 - Local Alcohol Plans
 - Liquor Bans

Action 1

- Immediate Actions

- Implementing recent Licensing Authority decisions to reduce number of off-licence superettes or grocery stores on licence renewal
- Implementing new temporary signs bylaw to reduce sandwich board signage used by licenced premises on renewal or investigation
- Rollout of DVD in off-licence premises to discourage parents, siblings and friends from buying alcohol for young people



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