

3 September 2013

Tauranga City Council  
Private Bag 12022  
Tauranga 3030

By email: [submissions@tauranga.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@tauranga.govt.nz)

### **Draft Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty District Local Alcohol Policy**

Dear Sir/Madam

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) wishes to make a submission on the Draft Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty District Local Alcohol Policy.

The NZMA is the country's largest voluntary pan-professional medical organisation with over 5,000 members. Our members come from all disciplines within the medical profession and include general practitioners, specialists, doctors-in-training and medical students. The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and promote professional unity and values, and the health of New Zealanders.

The NZMA supported the legislation that enabled the development of local alcohol policies (LAPs). We believe that LAPs are necessary to control licensed premises and alcohol availability, as part of a broader package of harm minimising measures. While we congratulate the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty District on the development of a LAP and welcome the proposed restriction on maximum trading hours for off licences, we are disappointed to note that the Council is not seeking greater restrictions on maximum trading hours for on licenses.

The medical profession is on the front lines of seeing the enormous harms incurred from alcohol. There is strong evidence to show that restrictions on maximum trading hours and

curbing outlet density are key ways to reduce alcohol-related harms.<sup>1</sup> We urge the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty District Council to engage meaningfully with health professionals when formulating its LAP. The NZMA would be happy to facilitate engagement with medical professionals in the region towards this end, but is not specifically seeking the opportunity to speak to our submission.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mark Peterson  
NZMA Chair

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<sup>1</sup> Popova S, et al. Hours and days of sale and density of alcohol outlets: impacts on alcohol consumption and damage: a systematic review. *Alcohol and Alcoholism* 2009; Sep-Oct;44(5):500-16; Connor JL, et al. Alcohol outlet density, levels of drinking and alcohol-related harm in New Zealand: a national study. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2011; Oct;65(10):841-6; Day P, et al. Close proximity to alcohol outlets is associated with increased serious violent crime in New Zealand. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* 2013;36: 48–54; Miller P, et al. Dealing with alcohol-related harm and the night-time economy. Monograph Series No. 43. [http://www.ndlrf.gov.au/pub/Mono\\_43\\_summary.pdf](http://www.ndlrf.gov.au/pub/Mono_43_summary.pdf); Wicki M, Gmel G. Hospital admission rates for alcoholic intoxication after policy changes in the canton of Geneva, Switzerland. *Drug Alcohol Depend* 2011; Nov 1;118(2-3):209-15.