



NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**Sale and Supply of Liquor
and
Liquor Enforcement Bill**

NZMA

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Sale and Supply of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill

The NZMA is New Zealand's largest medical organisation and has a pan professional membership. We have around 4000 members who come from all areas of medicine including medical students, resident medical officers, general practitioners, and other specialists.

The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and promote:

- professional unity and values;
- the health of New Zealanders.

The key roles of the NZMA are to:

- provide advocacy on behalf of doctors and their patients;
- provide support and services to members and their practices;
- publish and maintain the Code of Ethics for the profession; and
- publish the New Zealand Medical Journal.

It has been a pleasure to read the Sale and Supply of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill which proposes a number of changes to the law that NZMA has been advocating for some time. We are pleased to see the proposal to establish a form of "enforced self regulation" through the creation of the Liquor Advertising Advisory Body. We have been concerned for some time about the effectiveness of self regulation of alcohol products through the Advertising Standards Authority and our view has up until now been that the regulation of all broadcast liquor advertising programmes should be placed with a Statutory Authority. We accept that the establishment of this new body should ensure a greater role for government, as well as allow for systematic monitoring, independent auditing and strengthened compliance although time will tell as to whether or not this occurs. To be effective however the government must ensure that the new body is adequately resourced.

We note the proposal to move to a zero blood alcohol limit for those on restricted, limited and learner licenses. While we would like to support this proposal we are concerned that such a proposal will catch not only those who have consumed an alcoholic drink but also those who have taken medications such as cough syrup etc that contain small amounts of alcohol, but who are still in a fit state to drive. We have endeavoured to discuss our concerns with the New Zealand Police about the breadth of the potential Zero BAC net. The New Zealand Police have indicated however that they have not yet had discussions with the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry leading the Bill) around the enforcement of a zero BAC limit and are therefore unable to comment. Given that fact we cannot at this point support a zero BAC limit for learner, restricted and limited licence drivers. We advise though that if we could be given some assurance that innocent drivers would not be caught by the law change then we would support a zero BAC limit for **all** drivers under the age of 20.

The other proposals in the Bill relating to the ability of territorial authorities to establish local alcohol plans against which the District Licensing Authority can determine whether or not to grant or renew an on-license, the "three strikes and you are out" policy in respect of managers selling alcohol to those under age and the penalty provided to adults providing alcohol to those under age for whom they are not legal guardians also make sense.

We give this bill our full support.

We do not wish to appear.

Dr Peter Foley
Chair