

LICENCE TO SERVE

ISSUE 028

News from the Liquor Licensing team



Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand



This newsletter is jointly produced by the Timaru District Council Alcohol Licensing Team, the Police Alcohol Harm Reduction Officer, Te Whatu Ora Alcohol Licensing Officer and the Fire Risk Management Officer, Fire & Emergency New Zealand.

We encourage all licensees to circulate this newsletter to all staff, especially Duty Managers.

Keeping our teens safe

My friends across the office in the Youth Aid workgroup wanted to spread the awareness about the sale of alcohol to young people.

In the last 6 months there has been a huge rise of 16 and 17 year olds being caught driving with alcohol in their system in our area. It's concerning because if you are under 20, the legal limit is zero. Any reading of 1-150mcg of alcohol per litre of breath is a \$200 fine. A reading of 151mcg and over is a summons to the district court. Teens from the same friend circle who have just turned 18 (but also parents and caregivers) are supplying alcohol to our youth. So what can you do about it?

Off licensees: Are your customers acting a bit suspicious? Paying with multiple payment types (i.e cash and card)? This can be a red flag. Any information around this can be handed to the Police to investigate further. If you have the staff, take a look outside and see who might be waiting for their friend to buy alcohol.

On Licences: Keep checking IDs. It's great we have doorstaff and security staff to check identification, but everyone makes mistakes. Check those on the dance floor at tables to ensure there's no one underage that have slipped past security or snuck in another entrance.

Continue communicating with your patrons, getting out from behind the bar and continually making assessments of people drinking.

Thanks for all your hard work in keeping the roads alcohol free.

Sgt Cam McBride

Cameron.mcbride@police.govt.nz



**Alcohol will
not be served
to minors**



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Joint Local Alcohol Policy

Kia ora,

The Mackenzie, Timaru and Waimate District Councils have opened consultation on the draft Joint Local Alcohol Policy, and invite your feedback.

We want to receive your thoughts on the draft policy, by Monday 30 October at 5pm.

Do you agree with our proposal to renew the policy with one amendment? What changes, if any, would you like to see in the policy? Would you like to speak to your submission (in person or remotely) at a Joint Committee Hearing?

Have your say

Let us know what you think about our draft policies.

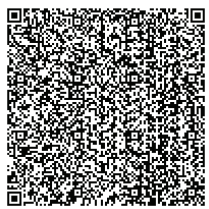
You can do this by:

- Completing the online submission form at www.timaru.govt.nz/tell-us/current-consultations or;
- Downloading the physical submission form from our website and posting it back to Council, or scanning it and emailing it to submission@timdc.govt.nz.

If you are not the right person in your organisation to respond, please forward this onto the relevant person/s as soon as possible to enable them to respond by the close of submissions.

Contact lap@timdc.govt.nz with any questions about the content of the policy, or submission@timdc.govt.nz with any questions about the submissions process.

Thank you – we look forward to receiving your views.



Further information about the policy review (including research considered, meeting agendas and minutes) can be located on the Timaru District Council website at the link below, or by scanning the QR code.

**Let us know
what you think
of our draft
policy.**

**Submissions close
Monday 30 October
at 5pm**

Further information, including an overview of alternative options, is available at www.timaru.govt.nz/current-consultations



Water availability to reduce alcohol related harm

It's that exciting time of year when the days get longer, and the weather gets warmer. Unfortunately, with the hot sun and alcohol consumption there is an increased risk of rapid dehydration, so now is a great time to assess the provision of water available in your premises.

Having water readily available is one of the best tools to prevent patrons from becoming intoxicated.

There are many different ways to safely provide water as well as checking that the location isn't obstructed during busy times.

Remember to remind your staff to keep providing water to anyone consuming alcohol and if you do have a water station, that it is refreshed regularly and ensure there are plenty of clean drinking glasses available.



Poster from getlcq.co.nz

LCQ Training Dates

In the Timaru / Waimate / Mackenzie district there are two providers that offer NZQA Unit Standards 4646 and 16705 training.

The ARA courses for 2023 are (however may be subject to change) as follows:

- 16 October with exam on 30 October

To book these courses please call ARA directly on 0800 242 476. The course runs 8.30am to 4.30pm on the first day and the exam starts at 1pm.

As well as the ARA courses there are also the following options online:

GetLCQ

www.getlcq.co.nz (0800 800 415)

Industry Training Solutions

www.its.ac.nz (0800 GO4 ITS)

ServeWise

In previous newsletters we have discussed Servewise and this is excellent for those staff that you have working behind the bar who may not wish to go to the next level of obtaining their LCQ. This is a free training system and you can access this by going to www.alcohol.org.nz and search for 'Servewise'.



CHANGES TO PUBLIC OBJECTION TIMEFRAME

Parliament has recently made changes to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act).

One set of changes (making it easier for communities to have a say in alcohol licensing decisions) came into force on 31 August 2023. This has resulted in the time period for people to object to an application (new or renewal) increasing from 15 working days to 25 working days.

With this in mind the Liquor Team recommend you look at lodging your renewal applications at least 35 working days prior to expiry rather than the 20 working days prescribed in the Act.

The definition of working days in the Act is:

working day means a day of the week other than—

- a Saturday, a Sunday, Waitangi Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, the Sovereign's birthday, Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki/Matariki Observance Day, and Labour Day; and
- if Waitangi Day or Anzac Day falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, the following Monday; and
- a day in the period commencing on 20 December in any year and ending with 15 January in the following year.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the Liquor Team either via email or phone.

Housekeeping

Make sure you're up-to-date on your hospo admin and knowledge



Is your signage up to scratch?

Every licensee is required to display a copy of their licence, trading hours, manager on duty, host responsibility and food availability. Signage is available to help you meet your obligations.

Contact liquoradmin@timdc.govt.nz if you need any.



Do your staff know the conditions of your alcohol licence?

It's your responsibility to make sure they know any conditions that apply, as well as the licenced area where alcohol is permitted for sale, supply or consumption. Not knowing the conditions specific to your licence may result in a breach, which could lead to a fine or it could impact your licence at renewal time.



Ensuring you pay your annual fees on time is an absolute must or your licence could be suspended.

We send out invoices a couple of months before your annual fees are due. If you fail to pay your annual fees in time you will be served with a suspension notice and won't be able to sell alcohol until the fees are paid in full. The responsibility for paying your fees in time lies with the licensee, whether you receive an invoice from us or not.



A District Licensing Committee (DLC) is usually made up of three members.

A common misunderstanding is that the Alcohol Licensing Inspector decides the outcome of an alcohol licence application. The inspector, along with NZ Police and the Medical Officer of Health, is required to 'inquire' into an application and file a report with the DLC, who then make a decision.

From the Secretary's Desk

Kia ora koutou

Spring is in the air and the weather is looking up, making for the beginnings of the busy season for us. We are very happy to announce that we have a brand new Liquor Licensing Inspector, Petro Simpson. Petro is still in training and is happy to assist with any of your queries relating to special licenses, which she is fast becoming very well acquainted with.

Speaking of which, it is the season in which special events are a popular past time for many, so we ask that if you are thinking of holding any special events in the lead up to Christmas, we would encourage you to get your applications in early, to avoid missing the statutory deadlines and the consequential disappointment. We still have some resourcing gaps, in terms of team administrative support, so would appreciate the submission of applications early.

The other big newsworthy item on the alcohol agenda is the recent changes to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Briefly the changes include:

1. Anyone can object to an alcohol licence application.
2. The objection period has been extended from 15 to 25 working days.

3. Local alcohol policies can no longer be appealed to the Alcohol Regulatory Licensing Authority.
4. Trade competitors and their surrogates are restricted from objecting to licence applications.
5. Further changes to the way DLC hearings are run will take place from 30 May 2024.

You can read more about the Act here:

www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2012/0120/latest/DLM3339333.html

Until next time...

Ngā mihi,
Debbie Fortuin
Secretary