

# Alcohol Reform Package



Building a Safer New Zealand

WINTER 2011

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National is determined to reduce alcohol-related harm – including crime, disorder, and public health problems. Our alcohol reform package empowers communities and zeroes in on where the harm from alcohol is happening – particularly around youth – to help control the supply of alcohol, reduce demand, and limit alcohol-related problems.

## Alcohol is a driver of crime

Alcohol is estimated to contribute to 1000 deaths a year, and is a major driver of crime. It's a factor in:

- 30% of recorded offences
- 34% of recorded family violence
- 50% of all homicides.



- The Dominion Post, 24 August 2010

## Addressing alcohol-related harm

National is responding to the public's call for action with new legislation. Our reform package adopts, in full or in part, 126 of the Law Commission's 153 recommendations, and makes other changes.

Our reforms strike an appropriate balance between harm reduction and trusting responsible New Zealanders to make their own decisions about their own alcohol consumption.

## Aims of our package

- Less alcohol-related harm, including deaths, family violence, drunken disorder, and ACC claims.
- Reduce our binge-drinking culture, especially among young people.

## KEY FEATURES OF OUR PACKAGE

### CONTROLLING SUPPLY

#### Stricter licensing

- Letting communities decide how many alcohol outlets they have, where they are, and what time they open.
- Setting national opening hours where there is no local alcohol policy in place.
  - Off-licences (eg bottle stores): 7am – 11pm.
  - On-licences (eg bars): 8am – 4am.
- Limiting the types of stores eligible for an off-licence.

#### Increasing the purchase age

- Proposing a split purchase age – 18 to drink in bars but 20 to buy alcohol from an off-licence. This issue will be dealt with by National as a conscience vote, not a party one.

#### More tools for parents

- Requiring people to have consent of a parent or guardian when supplying alcohol to someone under 18.
- Requiring parents, guardians, and approved suppliers to supply alcohol responsibly, and supervise consumption.

### REDUCING DEMAND

- Investigating minimum pricing.
- Strengthening offences for irresponsible promotion.

### LIMITING ALCOHOL-RELATED PROBLEMS

- Boosting penalties for licence breaches.
- Improving public education and treatment services.
- Restricting RTD alcohol content and container size.

### NEXT STEPS

Over 7000 submissions were received on the Alcohol Reform Bill. The submissions were carefully considered and the select committee will report back to Parliament later this year.