

We can create a better CITY:

by reducing access
to **ALCOHOL**

As we prepare to rebuild Christchurch, it's time to address some important social issues that stand in the way. An integrated solution to the alcohol crisis will produce significant benefits for everyone.

The facts about drinking

Unhealthy and dangerous drinking is causing immense harm to individuals and our society as a whole. Here's some sobering facts about problem drinking from Alcohol Action NZ.

- At least 25% of New Zealand drinkers are heavy drinkers;
- A third of all police apprehensions and half of all serious violent crimes involve alcohol;
- 60 different medical conditions are caused by heavy drinking;
- Up to 75% of adult presentations at Emergency Departments on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights are alcohol-related;
- Over 300 alcohol-related offences daily;
- Over 500 serious and fatal injury traffic crashes every year;
- Up to 3000 children born each year with fetal alcohol syndrome;
- Over 1000 alcohol deaths in New Zealand every year;
- 17,000 years of life per year are lost through alcohol.

For more information see
www.alcoholaction.co.nz

It doesn't have to be
this way. Dealing with
alcohol is achievable.

Did you know?

- Alcohol is a highly intoxicating drug which is fairly easy to overdose on;
- Alcohol can cause brain damage;
- Alcohol causes aggression;
- Alcohol is fattening in social drinkers;
- Alcohol can cause cancer;
- Alcohol cardio-protection has been talked up;
- The alcohol industry actively markets alcohol to young people;
- Low risk drinking means drinking low amounts of alcohol;
- A lot of the alcohol industry's profit comes from heavy drinking.



Rebuilding Christchurch

Dealing with problems arising from alcohol use is one crucial part of the wider story about building a great city.

To deal with alcohol we need to...

Adopt the 5+ Solution

Effective regulation is needed to turn the tide of New Zealand's harmful drinking culture. The 5+ Solution is a set of policy directives which are a real solution to the national alcohol crisis:

- 1: Raise alcohol prices
 - 2: Raise the purchase age
 - 3: Reduce alcohol accessibility
 - 4: Reduce marketing and advertising
 - 5: Increase drink-driving counter-measures
- PLUS Increase treatment opportunities for heavy drinkers**

Strengthen the Alcohol ACCORD

We need to encourage the responsible sale, use and promotion of alcohol in licensed premises, including ensuring high compliance standards, staff training and one-way door intervention.

Reduce outlets and trading hours

Our communities need to be protected from the alcohol's dominant presence in shops and restaurants. The excessive availability of alcohol can be reduced by refusing new licence applications and reducing alcohol trading hours.

Monitor alcohol licences

Regular surveillance of high-risk licensed premises and events is necessary to spot breaches in licencing requirements. Where breaches persist, licensees and duty managers should be prosecuted.

Provide alcohol-free events

People can socialise and have fun without alcohol, especially if they are given opportunities to attend events where alcohol is not available. Where alcohol *is* served, strong messages encouraging moderation should be given.

Support local treatment providers

People with alcohol-related problems, need to be able to access help easily.

METHODISM commits us to seeking justice and the alleviation of the social conditions that create and perpetuate alcohol abuse. The Christchurch Methodist Mission deals with clients on a regular basis for whom alcohol is a problem. We supports efforts to reduce the harm caused by alcohol.

www.mmsi.org.nz/our-views.html

This information can be used and distributed freely.