

OUR POSITION

Young people's attitudes to excessive alcohol consumption cannot change while New Zealand society continues to be accepting of alcohol abuse.

OUR GOAL

For agencies and groups to look at both legislative and non-regulatory ways of addressing New Zealand's culture of drinking.

WHAT THE COMMISSION HAS DONE SO FAR

2006: *Families and Heavy Drinking – Impacts on children's wellbeing* Blue Skies Fund report.

2006: Couch poll on attitudes to alcohol saw 800 members share their views; most said that parents and society as a whole had a part to play in changing attitudes.

2006 onwards: Regular involvement in policy development on alcohol, including workshops, and commenting on Cabinet papers.

2009: Submission on the *Sale and Supply of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill*.

2009: Submission to the Law Commission issue paper. *Alcohol in our lives*

2010: *Living with Addiction – Exploring the issues for families*. Blue Skies Fund report

2011: Submission on the *Alcohol Reform Bill*

- > We should look at ways of reducing the consumption of alcohol by minors. This includes making it more difficult for them to buy, or for others to buy on their behalf, as well as having a heavily reduced alcohol limit if they do not have a full driver licence.

REFERENCES

Press release:
<http://www.familiescommission.govt.nz/news-events/concern-about-a-drinking-culture>

Law Commission:
<http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/ProjectIssuesPaper.aspx?ProjectID=154>

ALAC:
<http://www.alac.org.nz/DBTextworks/PDF/ALACMonitor2007-08.pdf>

KEY MESSAGES FOR THE COMMISSION

- > Alcohol is an acceptable part of socialising in New Zealand but can cause harm when abused, especially for young people and their families.
- > Most young people learn binge drinking behaviours from their peers, a view supported by parents we have polled.
- > Effective legislation is one way of deterring alcohol abuse amongst young people but we need a large scale public education campaign to help address our culture of drinking.
- > We support the development of local alcohol policies, based on consultation with families, as this will allow families to have a greater say about the supply and consumption of alcohol in their communities.

