



NEW ZEALAND

Affiliated with the International Federation of Business & Professional Women

BPW
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**Secretariat
Social Services Committee
Parliament House
Wellington 6011
New Zealand**

Submission on Sale of Liquor (Objections to Applications) Amendment Bill 2008

BPW NZ is affiliated to BPW International and as such our organisation supports UNIFEM and CEDAW and other United Nations committee's. BPW International has consultation rights to the above mentioned committees at the UN.

Our organisation's aims are to link professional and businesswomen throughout the world, to provide support, to lobby for change and to promote the ongoing advancement of women. We work for equal opportunities and status for all women in economic, civil and political life and removal of discrimination in all countries. We promote our aims and organise our operating structure without distinction as to race, language or religion.

BPW NZ supports the proposals to amend the Sale of Liquor Act as it addresses a number of concerns we as an organisation have had over the years on the proximity of Liquor outlets close to schools, and church's as well as other community based establishments.

BPW NZ has in the past made submissions on the Advertising of Liquor.

We also have policy on the minimum legal age of purchasing Alcohol and Labelling of product with more than 5% of Alcohol, in relation to foetal alcohol syndrome.

Applications for On-Licence premises,

BPW NZ believes that the evaluation being suggested that must be done prior to issuing a licence for On-Licence premises being granted, is essential as this will highlight the impact that these type's of premises will have on a community. We feel that the hours that an establishment is allowed to be open is often what impacts most on a community and that these should be sensible and take into account the type of area that the establishment is in. For example in a suburban community the hours for an establishment to open during week nights could be up to 10 o'clock at night and during the weekend (Friday/Saturday) no later than 1 o'clock. This means that noise issues and drunken behaviour on the streets after the establishment has closed could be kept to a minimum.

If an establishment is allowed to open close to schools and church's etc, some of the many problems would be bottles (possibly broken which could cause injury to a child) lying on the streets, children would be observing drunken and in some cases abusive behaviour which could traumatise them, or in the worst situation violent actions such as fighting, and police having to be called.

Applications for Off-Licence premises,

BPW NZ believes that the evaluation being suggested that must be done prior to issuing a licence for Off-Licence premises being granted, is essential as again this will highlight the impact that these type's of premises will have on a community. Proximity for children to be able to purchase liquor is a problem and if the premises is located close to a school the problem becomes aggravated. There are already problems within schools where some children are able to have access to alcohol. If Off-Licensed premises are allowed to open in close proximity to schools, particularly where teenagers at 18 who may still be attending are eligible to buy liquor, these problems are likely to escalate.

BPW NZ is very pleased that the time limit for objectors to lodge an objection is to be extended from 10 days to 20 days and that the wording for those who wish to object is being changed from “who has a greater interest in the application than the public generally” to “who is an affected party”. The new definition of the affected party clarifies who may object clearly.

Thank you for the opportunity to have our say and we hope that our comments are of use to you.

Yours Sincerely

Noeline Reisch
Legislation Convenor
BPW NZ