



NEW ZEALAND

Affiliated with the International Federation of Business & Professional Women

BPW
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**Justice and Electoral Committee
Parliament
Wellington**

Submission on the Sale and Supply of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill

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.

Our International organisation supports UNIFEM and CEDAW and other United Nations committee's in support of equality for women.

As alcohol has a large bearing on the deportment and attitudes of people towards violence in the home and within the community as well as causing economic stress within families that have members who are dependent on alcohol, we feel very strongly on being able to promote education and give authorities the power to actively reduce the harm associated with the consumption of alcohol.

In August 2008 we sent a submission to the Social Services Committee on the Sale of Liquor (Objections to Applications) Amendment Bill 2008. BPW NZ was involved in the review of the Regulation of Alcohol Advertising in March 2007.

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.

BPW NZ supports the changes proposed to the Sale of Liquor Act 1989, the Summary Offences Act 1981 and the Land Transport Act 1998 to implement recommendations arising from the review of the Sale and Supply of Liquor to Minors and the Review of the Sale of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Issues.

We give our opinions on the

- **Offences and Enforcement**

BPW NZ is pleased to see that producing false identification will become an offence and that young people who knowingly produce such documentation will be held accountable for their actions. Youth is not an argument for ignorance, the very fact that they have false identification that they have either forged themselves or bought from another person means they know they are doing something wrong, and they should be aware of the consequences. BPW NZ is also pleased to support the zero tolerance alcohol limit for drivers under the age of twenty, who do not have a full licence, however we would like to see it extended to all who are under twenty.

- **Transitional Period for existing owners of On-Licence and Off-Licence premises**

New section 255 relates to on-licences and applies to a transitional period of 3 years, New section 256 relates to the transitional period of 3 years for Off-Licences and new section 257 relating to Club Licences transitional period of 3 years.

Whilst BPW NZ see the need for a transitional period we believe that 3 years is too long, unless the exiting Licence has been granted for an expiry date that is three years away. BPW NZ would like to see a lesser period, possibly

eighteen months to two years, as we feel that the proliferation of (particularly off-licences) licences should be curtailed as soon as possible.

- **Advertising**

Although the preferred option of enforced self-regulation is a step in the right direction, BPW NZ would prefer Option No 1 – Co-regulation of alcohol advertising as this brings it completely in line with the co-regulatory system for broadcasting which has proved to be very successful.

BPW NZ is gratified that the consultation review on Advertising has had a major impact on the development of the preferred option for Advertising.

BPW NZ are impressed with the Implementation and Review Section and believes this is a workable proposal.

BPW NZ would prefer to have seen the legal age for the purchase of Alcohol returned to 20 as per our policy refer below

15.19.3 **Alcohol Minimum Purchasing Age**

URGE the government to restore the minimum alcohol purchasing age to 20 years. **(2005)**

Rationale:

New Zealand and international research shows a clear relationship between lowering the age at which alcohol can be purchased, and an increase in alcohol related problems, for example injuries, illnesses, violence, time away from work or education, crime, in younger age groups. There is also a predicted rise in sexually transmitted diseases as a result of increased access to liquor at a younger age.

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