



4 February 2004

S04.04

**Submission to the Commerce Select Committee on the
Sale of Liquor Amendment Bill (No 2)**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 42 nationally organised societies. It has 33 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies. The Council's function is to serve women, the family and the community at local, national and international levels through research, study, discussion and action.

One of the greatest strengths of NCWNZ is the ability we have to network with the organisations we represent so as to obtain a very wide and varied base for our submissions. Unfortunately when we receive a Bill in December, as we did with this Bill, it is very hard to make these contacts, therefore the Social Issues Standing Committee members only have been canvassed for this submission.

Part 1

3 Purpose of this Part is.....

- (a) to increase the financial disclosures made by licensing trusts in relation to the fees and remuneration of presidents, members, and certain employees
- (b) to require licensing trusts to hold annual meetings of electors:
- (c) to remove the restriction on local licensing trusts competing outside their districts:
- (d) to permit licensing trusts to reconstitute as community trusts.

NCWNZ is very much in favour of 3(a) as Licensing Trusts and Community Trusts should have properly audited transparent accounts with qualified accountants, so the community can see what is happening to all the money both received and paid out.

3 (c) has caused concern as most areas of New Zealand already have trouble with an over abundance of outlets. Therefore our membership is against this clause.

3 (d) Our members were mostly in agreement with this, with many suggesting that perhaps a certain portion of the money paid out should be distributed to groups working with people with a problem with alcohol, and to educate young people about the use and misuse of alcohol. Concern was also expressed that a Community Trust could buy their own gaming machines and the income become a part of their trading activities, as has happened in chartered clubs. We would not be in agreement with this.

Sections 37 of the Principle Act is amended by inserting, after subsection (1) subsection:

(1a) However, it is a condition of an off-licence that a person may sell or deliver grape wine or fruit wine on Easter Sunday if the grape wine or fruit wine is made -

- (a) on the premises; or
- (b) from grapes or fruit harvested from land on which the premises are situated.





Most of membership are in agreement with this and see that it is bringing this into line with other outlets that are now allowed to open.

Purchasing of liquor by minors

Section 162 of the principal Act is amended by adding the following subsection:

(5) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person who purchases liquor on or from licensed premises at the request of a member of the police acting in the course of his or her duties.

AND

Section 163 of the principal Act is amended by adding the following subsection:

(4) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a person who is in a restricted area or supervised area on licensed premises at the request of a member of the police acting in the course of his or her duties.

NCWNZ members understand that these measures must be taken on occasion to make sure that the law is being upheld, but our members would not like to see this method over-used. If all other monitoring has failed to prove that alcohol is being provided to minors then and only then should these subsections be used.

Conclusion

The National Council of Women of New Zealand has in its 107 years always taken a keen interest in legislation concerning the sale of liquor. We have and will continue to advocate consistency and clarity in the liquor laws and the strictest policing of them all. The aim of legislation is to contribute to the reduction of liquor abuse and this must be the justification for a change in the law.

Beryl Anderson
National President

Christine Rattray
Convener, Social Issues Standing Committee