

## Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata

## Auckland Regional Public Health Service

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National Alcohol Action Plan Consultation Feedback  
Ministry of Health  
PO Box 5013  
Attention: National Drug Policy Team

### Submission on the Draft National Alcohol Action Plan

1. Thank you for the opportunity for the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) to provide a submission to the Draft National Alcohol Action Plan.
2. ARPHS provides public health services for Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata District Health Boards. This submission represents the views of ARPHS and does not necessarily reflect the views of the three District Health Boards. Please refer to Appendix 1 for more information on ARPHS.
3. ARPHS understands that all submissions will be available under the Official Information Act 1982, except if grounds set out under the Act apply.
4. ARPHS is funded by the Ministry of Health to contribute to the achievement of the thirteen priority health objectives identified in New Zealand Health Strategy. One of the thirteen population health priorities identified in the Strategy is “to minimise harm caused by alcohol and illicit and other drug use to both individuals and the community”.<sup>1</sup> Alcohol is also identified as a risk factor for a number of the other priorities such as those dealing with cancer, chronic liver disease, cardio-vascular disease, suicide and domestic violence.

### 5. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ARPHS has complied in providing recommendations and comments under each of the submission headings titled general questions, actions, themes, goals and sub goals of the discussion document. To view ARPHS submission, please refer to Appendix 2.

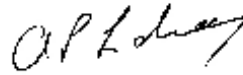
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1. Ministry of Health. (2000) The New Zealand Health Strategy. Wellington, New Zealand

Yours sincerely



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**Service**



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## **Appendix 1 - Auckland Regional Public Health Service**

Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) provides public health services for the three district health boards (DHBs) in the Auckland region (Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata District Health Boards), with the primary governance mechanism for the Service resting with Auckland District Health Board.

ARPHS has a statutory obligation under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities in the Auckland region. The Medical Officer of Health has an enforcement and regulatory role under the Health Act 1956 and other legislative designations to protect the health of the community.

ARPHS' primary concern is to improve population health rather than deliver personal health services. It actively seeks to influence any initiatives or proposals that may affect population health in the Auckland region to maximise their positive impact and minimise possible negative effects on population health.

The Auckland region faces a number of public health challenges through changing demographics, increasingly diverse communities, increasing incidence of lifestyle-related health conditions such as obesity and type 2 diabetes, outstanding infrastructure needs, the balancing of transport needs, and the reconciliation of urban design and urban intensification issues.

Policy to effect health gain is often marginalised by medical care. Health, however, is influenced by a broad range of policy decisions and is therefore a multi-sector responsibility and not solely the responsibility of the health sector. Statutes such as the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act, Local Government Act, Resource Management Act and Building Act (amongst many others) all have elements designed to deliver outcomes promoting, protecting and maintaining the health of the community. Planning and policy decisions by central government, local government, non-government agencies and the commercial sector can have a large impact on health outcomes. ARPHS, therefore, has a role to play in policy advocacy. Population health and wellbeing can be improved if policy decision makers are considering long term outcomes. ARPHS aims to influence public policy to create a supportive environment for the communities of Auckland.