



Host Responsibility and the Festive Season

With the festive season upon us, it is timely to remind licensees and bar staff of the importance of being a responsible host.

Remember to have:

- A range of savoury foods available.
- Low alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks available.
- Safe transport options.
- A policy not selling to minors, or intoxicated persons.
- Responsible service.
- Promotions, that do not encourage excessive consumption.

At this time of year there is often an increased number of people who have been at functions (often work functions), and who arrive in the town area late in the evening and intoxicated.

Unfortunately Christmas is viewed by some people as an opportunity to drink to excess, and cause harm and damage to others.

Intoxicated persons should not be allowed to enter your premises, and you should endeavour to prevent them congregating outside your premises. If persons become intoxicated on your premises, they are not permitted to remain on your premises. Being a responsible host and intervening to prevent intoxication can help ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable time, and gets home safely.

Christmas Trading

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year and therefore bars and taverns must close no later than 12.00 midnight on Christmas Eve the 24th December. Friday the 23rd December may be a busy night in town. Taverns, bars and off licences may not sell liquor on Christmas Day. Restaurants may be open for dining with accompanying liquor sales.

New Years Eve

There is no Council organised function on New Year's Eve this year.

This Edition:

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Grocery and Supermarket Products

An “Off Licence” for a grocery or supermarket permits the sale of beer and wine. Supermarkets were granted the right to sell beer and wine, as it was considered that these products were an accompaniment to the household groceries sold. In recent years a number of products have appeared on grocery and supermarket shelves that do not come under the definition of beer or wine. An example is some of the “wine flavoured” fizzy beverages that are not wine as such, eg “cruiser bubbles”. Some of these products are little more than wine flavoured rtds that are designed to particularly appeal to young people.

The Liquor Licensing Authority has suggested that if such products are sold in supermarkets and groceries, that this is a breach of the licence conditions, and consequently an application should be made for suspension of licences.

Do you know what is on your shelves?



Patron looks under 25?

NO ID = NO SALE

NO ID = NO ENTRY TO SUPERVISED AREAS

Minors Consuming Liquor

Minors (persons under 18 years) may not:

- Purchase liquor.
- Consume liquor in licensed premises unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, who has purchased the liquor for them.
- Be in a licensed premises that is designated a supervised area, unless accompanied by their parent or legal guardian (unless employed there carrying out certain tasks).

Remember – you are under **no obligation to sell or supply liquor** if a situation is contrary to your premises policy. If you believe that liquor is being purchased for supply to a minor, then you have no obligation to sell. Dress code is an occasion where you have the right to refuse entry to your premises.

Some parents supply their teens with inappropriate quantities of liquor, which may then be bought into town. Persons under 18 drinking in a public place, without a parent or guardian, are liable to a \$200.00 fine from Police. This is in addition to the fines for breaching the liquor ban areas in the Ashburton CBD or Methven.

Remember- check ID if someone looks under 25 years. It is not recommended that bar staff rely on door staff to check ID, as under the Sale of Liquor Act, the consequences for sale or supply to minors lie with the licensee, duty manager and seller.

Have a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year!