



Honourable Kris Faafoi
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Talofa lava Honourable Minister Kris Faafoi,

I am writing in regards to a call for a full review of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act (SaSA)

There is an urgent need for reform of the alcohol regulatory framework. It is clear that the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act is not currently working. It is perpetuating health and social inequities, particularly for Māori people, and this is a clear breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. I urge you, as the Minister with responsibility for the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act, to commission a thorough review of the Act, and to ensure that this process considers:

1) Te Tiriti o Waitangi and

2) the evidence-based strategies and policies for reducing alcohol-related harms (also known as the WHO '[Three Best Buys](#)' (increasing price via pricing policies such as Minimum Unit Pricing, reducing availability of alcohol in communities, and regulation of alcohol advertising, marketing and sponsorship)).

There is a vast power imbalance between the alcohol industry and our communities, reducing the abilities for communities to effectively object to repeated and ever-proliferating off-sale licence applications. This is causing great harm in society, particularly for Māori and Pacific people and our most vulnerable populations such as children. We urge you to ensure that appropriate legislation and regulations are implemented, to redress the imbalance in power between this unhealthy commodity industry and the population of New Zealand, and in particular for Māori whānau and Pacific communities.

As Sir Doug Selman (Alcohol Action NZ) so eloquently put it:

- The public health science is strong
- The public support for stronger alcohol regulations is large
- The number of times successive governments have dismissed recommendations is growing
- The barrier to change is the influence of commercial vested interests on the political process - Big Money seduces and puts the frighteners on Members of Parliament, and in so doing corrodes democracy
- The struggle for alcohol law reform is part of a larger struggle for a civilized democratic world where truth and health are highly valued

Decades of dedicated work in Aotearoa has highlighted the increasing consumption of, and harms caused by alcohol; from increased violence, road deaths, cirrhosis, alcohol related cancers, mental health problems including addictions and poverty. With a commendable science literate and social justice focus so evident from this government so far, there may never be a better chance to improve these shameful health statistics.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant Berghan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Grant Berghan,
CEO Public Health Association of New Zealand