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| **Alcohol Supply – an under-recognised contributor to less inclusive habitats and a legal response** |
| **Background: The negative impact of alcohol supply and consumption on inclusive habitats is an important but under-researched aspect of alcohol’s harm. Drunkenness and drinking in public spaces affects amenity, perceptions of safety and willingness to use public spaces. Legislation can shape healthy environments and under the NZ Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act (SSAA) such effects on amenity are intended to be taken into account in licensing decisions and in the establishment of Local Alcohol Policies. However, concern has arisen over the adequacy of implementation of this Act and, in particular, whether the community voice is being heard. This paper reports an analysis of decisions made by District Licensing Committees (DLC) in which community objectors raised concerns relevant to inclusivity.**  **Methods: A narrative literature review of evidence on the impact of drinking on inclusive habitats was carried out. Contextual information on alcohol licenses in relation to deprivation was obtained from administrative databases to inform selection of appropriate case studies. Analysis of DLCs decisions was supplemented by analysis of submissions to a relevant Parliamentary Committee and interviews with key informants, including community objectors. The status of Local Alcohol Policies was also reported.**  **Results: Concerns over noise, vomiting, urination, nuisance, litter and presence of drunken or drinking people in public spaces are evidenced in the literature and community objections made in the licensing process. These factors lead to diminished inclusivity in public spaces, particularly for children and women. The New Zealand licensing structure, which relies on first level decision-making at the local level has led to patchy outcomes and inadequate support for community voice. Appeals from the commercial actors and decisions from the licensing authority have prevented, in some cases, the community voice having an effect on outcomes.**  **Discussion: The initial implementation of the SSAA has failed in several aspects. First, the failure of local authorities to establish Local Alcohol Policies (as allowed under the Act) and second, the failure to provide a structure which allowed community voice to be heard and not dominated by commercial interests. The results of the analysis suggest the object of the Act was not met adequately during the first six years of implementation and suggestions for improvements are made.**  **Keywords:** alcohol, public space, law |