

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR WIDER NETWORKS

**Kia Ora, Bula, Malo Ni, Fakaalofa lahi atu,
Malo e Lelei, Kia Orana, Talofa lava**

ALCOHOL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND
Kauwhiri Whakaturanga Waiarua o Aotearoa



ALAC is pleased to be updating its 2009 Working Together Conference programme. All the latest information can be found at : <http://www.alac.co.nz/UpComingEvents.aspx>. Please also find information on accommodation options, and a template for abstracts on the website.

The conference planning is well underway and we are pleased to advise that we have secured a quality international keynote speaker from Scotland, Dr Peter Rice. There is a biography below about Peter, and he will be very interesting updating the sector on leading developments in the Scottish alcohol policy environment, as well as helping New Zealand understand the potential for brief intervention in a wider range of settings. We are also pleased to be hosting the Law Commission, leading a discussion on the review of New Zealand's regulatory framework on alcohol. They will update the conference on their progress as well as advising on opportunities to feed into the review.

International Keynote Speaker – Dr Peter Rice, Scotland

Dr Peter Rice is a member of the SHAAP Executive Committee in Scotland. Dr Rice is one of Scotland's leading medical voices on alcohol and has played a key role in influencing the Scottish Government on the twin areas of alcohol services and effective alcohol policy. He currently works as Consultant Psychiatrist with NHS Tayside Alcohol Problems Service and has pioneered a service based on a population model. Tayside was the first area in Scotland to develop a Primary Care liaison service with an established programme of screening and brief interventions with 95% GP participation. The service developed by Dr Rice is seen as the 'gold standard' in Scotland. Dr Rice is also an Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Medical School, University of Dundee and has published in the BMJ and other journals. He is an accomplished public speaker and in addition to his involvement with SHAAP, he is the Vice Chair of Scotland's largest NGO dealing with alcohol - Alcohol Focus Scotland. Dr Rice is currently a member of the Scottish Government's Alcohol Brief Interventions Delivery Team and recently chaired a Ministerial working group on Mental Health and Substance Misuse and has very valuable experience covering both clinical practice and the implementation of national policy.

Abstracts for stream session presentations

We have received a number of high quality abstracts for the conference, but there is still heaps of opportunities to share your experiences and learn from others, We would love to receive abstracts in the areas of:

Policy and legislation: lessons learned in the effective enforcement of liquor laws, innovative projects aimed at achieving compliance, policy discussions or workshops....

Community action: examples of community action from 2008/09, or planned community action projects, innovative 'promising practice' projects....

Health: efforts to reduce the harm from alcohol in the health sector, raising the profile of the health sector in the organised efforts to reduce alcohol related harm....

Local government: are you developing an alcohol strategy or wanting to, have you recently developed one, want to talk about alcohol policy at a local level....

Research: done research in the area, doing research and want some input, can we learn from your examples of local research projects....

Any other initiatives or ideas for stream sessions are welcome. We want to hear from you...
...we can receive abstracts up to **15 April 2009**. Please get in quick...

If you haven't registered, please find the registration form on-line at :
<http://www.alac.co.nz/UpComingEvents.aspx>. If you register on-line, you will be invoiced electronically shortly afterwards.

Pre-conference Sector Group Meetings – 13 May 2009

The day prior to the conference has been traditionally used as a day for sector groups, or groups of people to meet regarding a subject.. This year, there will be three pre-conference meetings: community action, alcohol accords, and planning for alcohol. These meetings will occur after lunch, providing an opportunity for like-minded people to workshop 'what works' and opportunities and challenges in their field. A brief paragraph follows about each workshop.

Pre Conference Sector Group Meeting – 'Community Action'

"At the heart of Community Action is the empowerment of communities, their ownership and control of their own endeavours and destinies" (Ottawa Charter)

An increasing number of strategic/project plans and job descriptions carry the terms; Community Action; Community Action Funding; Community Action initiatives; collaborative and interactive community action intervention!! But what does all this mean in relation to the above definition of Community Action? This sector group meeting will discuss this, look at some existing community action models and explore ways that agencies and organisations involved in Community Action can work together in the spirit of inclusion and collaboration.

Pre Conference Sector Group Meeting – 'Alcohol Accords'

Over the past few years we have seen great examples of collective practical approaches towards addressing alcohol harms in the community through Alcohol Accords. This sector group meeting provides an opportunity for alcohol accord representatives from around New Zealand to network, share ideas, what works, pitfalls and highlights and further explore the role in which accords can play in influencing the combined efforts to reduce alcohol related harm. Come and be a part of discussions, and investigate opportunities for alcohol accords in the future.

Pre Conference Sector Group Meeting – 'Planning for Alcohol'

Alcohol-related harm is an issue for many communities. Research shows that people's drinking behaviour is influenced by their local environment and that communities can do a great deal to reduce alcohol-related harm. What is local government's role in reducing alcohol-related harm and does it go beyond liquor licensing? What are some options for Council's to work with others in reducing alcohol related harm and what are the challenges? This sector group meeting will provide an opportunity for people working in local authorities to come together and discuss these issues, to better plan for alcohol in the community and to hear examples of ways that local authorities are making a difference.

If you would like to attend any of the pre-conference sector group meetings, please RSVP to myself at a.galloway@alac.org.nz stating which meeting you would like to attend (for catering purposes).

We look forward to seeing you at Working Together 2009..

Regards,

Andrew

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