

# Christchurch Central Business District (CBD) Alcohol Accord

Newsletter 1 November 2006



Members of the Accord Management Committee

## ALCOHOL ACCORD - TWO MONTHS ON

### Chairman

*Comment by Peter Morrison, Chairman of the Christchurch CBD Alcohol Accord Management Committee.*

The Accord has now been in place for almost two months and feedback from the industry so far, is extremely positive.

It is very pleasing to see that the practical implementation of the one-way door at 4.00 a.m. is working well, and while it will take longer yet to make all patrons and bar-goers aware of it, it is great to see that after such a short period of time, patrons are accepting the change and are ensuring that they are "In B4 4".

## AIM OF THE ACCORD

To target alcohol-affected groups or individuals congregating or migrating in the Christchurch CBD resulting in disproportionately high rates of offending such as common or sexual assaults, wilful damage, property offences and other criminal or antisocial activity.

**Stakeholders:** ACC, ALAC, Canterbury District Health Board (Community and Public Health), Christchurch City Council, Hospitality Association of New Zealand (HANZ), Licensees (and Duty Managers), liquor companies, New Zealand Police, Security Companies, Taxi Federation and After Midnight Express.

### Objectives:

- To create a safe and prosperous night-time economy within the Christchurch CBD
- To reduce alcohol-related harm and crime-related costs
- Contribute to the reduction of liquor abuse
- Reduce intoxication, underage drinking and antisocial behaviour
- Build better relationships between stakeholders and the public

**Method:** A "One-Way Door" will commence at Thursday-Saturday (Friday-Sunday mornings). No new patrons will be admitted to the premises or re-admitted once they have left. Exclusion of patrons from 4am will remain in place for two hours and extends to no earlier than 6am.

Police presence on the streets has increased and they are taking a harder line with anyone not complying with the liquor ban or creating other problems on the streets.

As Chairman of the Accord Committee I have seen a number of other issues addressed at the committee table, such as improved taxi access for patrons, better rubbish removal from city streets, suggestions for better street lighting, improved communications between bars and door staff, and quicker identification of any inner city potential problem areas. I am also very pleased to see the commitment from all sectors involved with the Accord, including the Police, Christchurch City Council representatives, Community and Public Health, and the bar owners themselves who have given their time freely to attend weekly Accord Committee meetings.

It is important that we evaluate this accord over a six month period to see the real impact of it. But it seems that we are on the right track to ensuring a vibrant and safe inner city for all to enjoy. It is pleasing that our politicians saw sense and didn't change the Age of Purchase. This would have made things harder for all concerned and not address the real problem of parental responsibility and educating our youth on safe drinking practices. We welcome the review of liquor availability. There are too many off-licences and this is driving down prices, making it too attractive to young people.



## POLICING

*Inspector Gary Knowles, Area Commander, Christchurch Central*

Inspector Knowles says that two months into the accord the general feeling from the Police perspective is positive and it appears that the public have responded well to the initiative. Whilst the accord is still in its early stages, there has been a noticeable decrease in serious crimes of violence and of a sexual nature.

Inner city Police are happy with the progress so far, however there still remains a high number of breaches of the Liquor Ban, which are a concern particularly during the weekend period in areas such as The Strip, Cashel Mall and Manchester Street.

The Police focus in the weeks leading up to Christmas will involve high profile patrolling of the inner city in order to deal with incidents of disorder and breach of the Liquor Ban.

Frontline Police staff have noted a greater cooperation with door staff of bars who have participated in the accord. Several incidents have been reported where door staff have come to Police aid in arresting drunken and disorderly patrons.

Whilst it is the early stages of the accord, the overall view is that it is working and that the Police look forward to the continued cooperation with licensees in the upcoming weeks.

## POLICE LICENSING & MONITORING

*Sergeant Al Lawn, O/C liquor Licensing*

From a Police Licensing perspective the accord seems to be moving in the right direction. The cooperation and input from Licensees, bar staff and security staff has been outstanding. We see the accord as a 'work in progress' and the 'One Way Door' intervention as just one of the strategies which could impact positively on the inner city night-time economy.

The three agencies have continued to monitor premises during the night and early morning and are generally pleased with the standards which have been attained by licensed premises.

I am of the firm belief that we can continue to lead not only the country but be an example world wide on a totally collaborative approach in making the night time economy both safe and entertaining for all.

## LIQUOR BAN

The police are being more vigilant in policing of the liquor ban. They have found that warnings are an ineffective way of enforcing the ban and the preferred action is prosecution through the District Court. Remember the maximum fine for this breach is \$20,000 – a very expensive night out! Please help us in supporting the liquor ban by not allowing people to leave licensed premises with alcohol in their possession.

*\$20,000 fine for breaking the liquor ban*



*From left: Evon Currie, Community & Public Health, Peter Morrison, Chairperson Accord Management Committee, Police Commissioner Howard Broad, Christchurch Mayor Garry Moore, Superintendent Sandra Manderson, New Zealand Police*

Approximately 60-70 people attended the launch of the Christchurch CBD Alcohol Accord on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. Those attending included members of the regulatory agencies Christchurch City Council, Community and Public Health and NZ Police, representatives of the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective, security companies, ACC, bus companies, taxi companies, HANZ, New Zealand Hospitality and Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs. Jan McCarthy was the MC and we heard from Peter Morrison as Chairperson of the Accord Management Committee, Superintendent Sandra Manderson, Police District Commander, and Christchurch Mayor Garry Moore. The Police Commissioner Howard Broad also attended and addressed the gathering. After the official speeches Garry Moore, Superintendent Sandra Manderson and Evon Currie from Community and Public Health officially signed the accord. Licensees were given boxes with "Get in B4 4" branded chocolates and cards, posters, accord documentation and incident registers. After the launch a light finger food lunch was served. The launch was well attended by the media with TV1 and TV3 both covering the event, as well as the Press.

## TRAINING

Staff training is the key to operating a successful business, especially in overcoming the risks involved in a heavily regulated environment.

The three regulatory agencies combine to provide a staff training package that covers the requirements of the Sale of Liquor Act 1989, licence conditions and the expectations of the agencies.

These sessions are provided without charge.

Contact Peter Shaw, Community & Public Health to arrange training for your staff. peter.shaw@cdhb.govt.nz or 3799480 extn 812.

## FOOD AVAILABILITY

All liquor licences that allow consumption on the premise (On, Club & Special) carry a condition requiring the availability of food at all times that liquor is available. Failure to meet this condition means that any sale/supply of liquor is "unauthorized" (Section 165). This offence carries a maximum penalty of \$20,000 for both the licensee and duty manager.

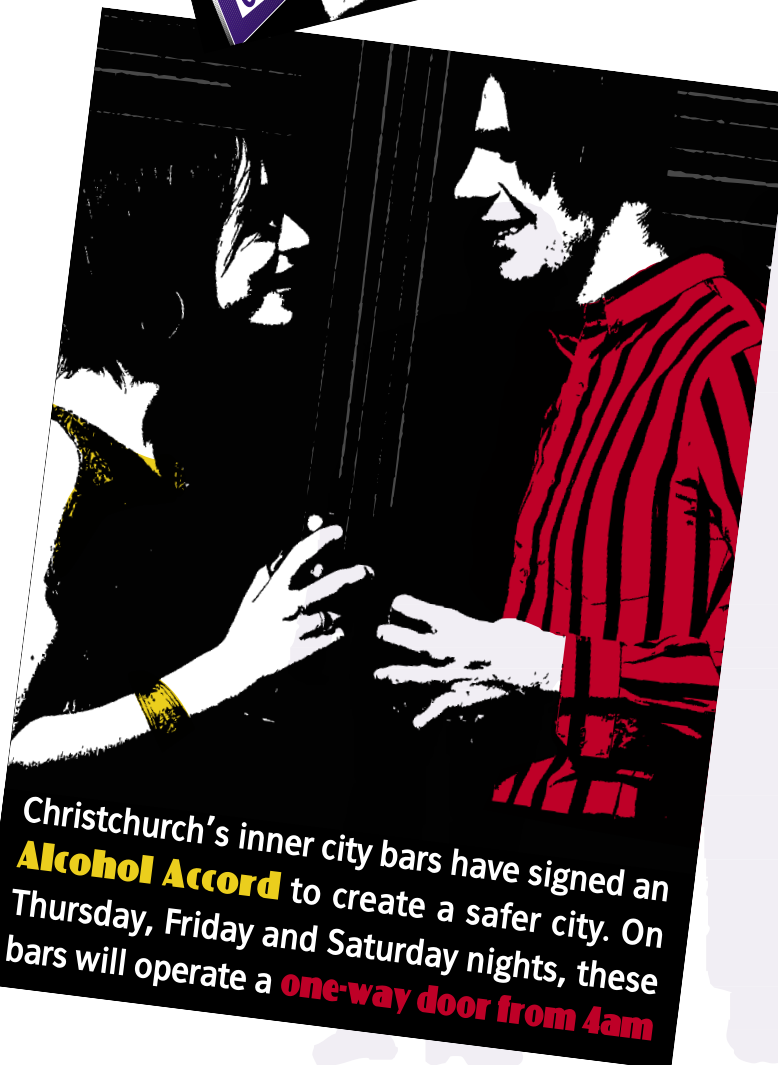
The public is increasingly aware of this requirement, which is resulting in regular complaints to the regulatory agencies. It is the intention of the agencies to test compliance, especially on those premises subject to complaint, by use of a "mystery shopper" scenario.

Please ensure that all staff members are aware of the importance of complying with licence conditions.

## NEED MORE STUFF?

If you need more posters or 'Get in B4 4' cards call Rachel or Gina on 03 363 4230.

**Call 363 4230**



## ONE-WAY DOOR EVALUATION

You may be aware that ACC and ALAC have allocated money to undertake a six month evaluation of the One-Way Door policy. They have appointed independent evaluators Louise Kirkwood and Paula Parsonage to examine the extent to which the project is effective in reducing alcohol-related crime and violence in Christchurch. You may have been asked by the evaluators to provide feedback to them in the form of a feedback sheet for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. For those who have been providing this information, great - keep up the good work! This feedback is essential to ensuring a robust and fair evaluation. The preliminary mid-intervention results will be presented at a meeting of the Accord Management Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December at 10.00am at "Our City", Cnr Worcester St and Oxford Tce.

*Keep returning those feedback forms!*

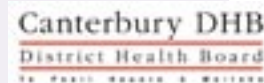
*To get in touch with the evaluators, contact:*

*Louise Kirkwood*

*Louise@ihug.co.nz*

The Accord Management Committee consists of the following people:

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