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Contact Details:

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Background:

ClubCHAMPS

The ClubCHAMPS concept was initiated in 2010 to support sports, predominantly rugby, clubs in the King Country to reduce alcohol related harm in their clubs and environs. It is built on the strap-line "Let your mates know when they've reached full-time".

ClubCHAMPS has become a 'whole of club' approach to reducing alcohol related harm through clubs that serve alcohol developing good systems of control of their environments with priorities and strategies for change set by the clubs themselves. ClubCHAMPS recognises that for many rural areas the local sports club is the "hub" for the community. Sports clubs are integral to the social fabric of rural communities and contribute to well-being. The responsible management of alcohol in clubs is fundamental to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for members, their families and the community at large and to reducing alcohol related harm.

The ClubCHAMPS project team is made up of members of the local Police, Population Health and the Waitomo District Road Safety Coordinator. The project team currently supports eight clubs with relevant training, resources, and the promotion of positive side-line behaviour.

Submission:

The ClubCHAMPS project team acknowledge the support given by the Waitomo District Council to projects like ClubCHAMPS and the Reducing Risk Team which focus on reducing alcohol related harm in the community.

Although not specifically mentioned in the Long Term Plan (LTP) currently up for consultation, our ClubCHAMPS project team would like to make the following submission with the hope that it may be included in the next draft of the LTP for 2015-2025.

The ClubCHAMPS project team would like to encourage council to extend the liquor ban areas to include council owned sports fields across the region.

This would encourage a safe and welcoming environment in these public spaces and reduce the negative impact of alcohol consumption in public spaces. This would also support sports clubs which use these fields, especially those advocating for improved side-line behaviour, to provide family friendly environments which have the ability to denormalise alcohol use for children and young people.

We are aware that there may be special events where organisers may wish to sell or supply alcohol in these areas (sports fields) and it is noted that in Hamilton City, the council is able to grant dispensations or a waiver to allow special events to sell or supply alcohol via a Special Licence application. This may be an option for Waitomo District if there is a decision to extend liquor ban areas to council owned sports fields.

Tentatively, we would like to be considered to make an oral submission.

Regards

Andy Connors, On behalf of the ClubCHAMPS Project Team