

Christchurch Tri-Agency Newsletter

Easter - ANZAC Day trading update 2016

This newsletter is jointly produced by the Christchurch City Council Alcohol Licensing Team, the Police Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit, and Community and Public Health Alcohol Licensing Officers.

Licensees

Please ensure this newsletter is circulated to all staff, especially Duty Managers.

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1. Good Friday, Easter Sunday and ANZAC Day (the sacrosanct days)

There are three and a half days of the year when premises holding an on or off-licence cannot trade in their usual manner.

These are commonly referred to as the sacrosanct days and are: Good Friday; Easter Sunday; Christmas day; and before 1.00 pm on Anzac Day.

This year these days fall on:

- Good Friday – 25 March 2016
- Easter Sunday – 27 March 2016
- ANZAC Day – Monday 25 April 2016.

As a reminder:

If you hold an **off-licence** you cannot sell alcohol: NO EXCEPTIONS.

If you hold an **on-licence** you can only sell alcohol to:

- persons currently living on the premises; or
- people present on the premises to dine.

You cannot sell alcohol to people who just want a drink. They must be intending to dine or have just finished a meal.

Time lines are specific:

- No more than an hour before they start eating a meal; or
- an hour after they have finished their meal.

Casual drinking is not permitted. This includes restaurants.

What is dining? Generally a meal undertaken at a table with knife and fork and undertaken at meal times, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Again for clarity, if you are functioning as a restaurant (providing meals) you may only sell alcohol to a person as an accompaniment to their meal.

The three monitoring agencies are required to enforce the provisions of the Act and will be monitoring premises for compliance.

If you have an event or function planned to occur on the sacrosanct days, I recommend you apply for a special licence. However please bear in mind that you need to apply for a special licence at least 20 working days before the event and special licence applications will not be accepted for continuation of normal trading.

If any confusion remains please discuss your plans with agency staff.

Martin Ferguson, Senior Alcohol Licensing Inspector.

2. Special Licence applications for Easter and ANZAC day 2016

2016 deadlines and timelines:

If you are planning a special event for any of these sacrosanct days and require an alcohol special licence, the following deadline apply for 2016:

- All applications must be made at least 20 working days before the event is held, otherwise they may not be accepted by the District Licensing Committee for consideration. (please refer additional information below)
- Therefore any event planned in 2016 for:
 - **Easter 2016** - applications must be received by **Friday 26 February 2016**.
 - **ANZAC Day 2016** - applications must be received by **Wednesday 24 March 2016** (i.e. received by us before Easter).

Making Applications:

[Special licence applications](#) must be lodged on time, otherwise they may not be accepted by the District Licensing Committee (DLC) for consideration.

Short notice applications (made less than 20 working days before the event date) must be accompanied by a letter explaining the reason for lateness for DLC consideration. You need to have a good reason as the Act refers to the reason for lateness as "could not reasonably have been foreseen".

If you have any questions please discuss with Council Alcohol Licensing staff.

Allison Houston, Team Leader Alcohol Licensing

3. Easter trading hours compliance - Police Monitoring

Police Will Be Actively Monitoring Licensed Premises over Easter

This year licensees can expect to see Police checking compliance over Easter with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 as it relates to alcohol sales.

The law is quite clear that casual drinking is not permitted under any circumstances however sales of alcohol can legitimately be made to people on the premises who are there to eat a meal and in some other limited circumstances. (Section 47 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 refers).

Police are aware that in recent years there has been considerable pressure applied by a few casual drinkers to be served and Police expect licensees will have good systems in place to prevent this.

Senior Sergeant Gordon Spite, Alcohol Harm Prevention, NZ Police

4. Tri-Agency Contact Details

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Regards

Christchurch City Council Alcohol Licensing Team
Police Alcohol Harm Reduction Team
Community and Public Health Liquor Licensing

PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS TO ALL YOUR STAFF- ESPECIALLY DUTY MANAGERS - AND/OR PLACE ON YOUR NOTICE BOARD