



Media release
3 June 2010

Public forum at ChristChurch Cathedral

Christchurch residents are invited to attend a public forum at ChristChurch Cathedral on Thursday 10 June, to hear about the impact of alcohol on our communities and how they can help make a difference.

Hosted by Healthy Christchurch, *Alcohol: The Ripple Effects*, will see Canterbury organisations, who deal daily with the harmful effects of alcohol misuse, talk about the impacts of alcohol on our community and the potential for change.

Presentations will be given by Christchurch City Council, Christchurch Police, St John, Pegasus Health, National Addiction Centre, Christchurch Tri-agency Liquor Licensing Group, Ngai Tahu, Canterbury District Health Board's Emergency Department and the University of Otago, Christchurch.

One of the presenters, Dr. Jan Bone from Canterbury District Health Board's Emergency Department says that alcohol-related injuries are on the increase, and it's not just the patients that are feeling the effects.

"The Ripple Effects is a fitting name for this forum because this is a problem that affects the whole community, not just the people with the injuries. We see time and time again the affect that misuse of alcohol is having on relationships, on families, on organisations."

Healthy Christchurch Chair Evon Currie says this forum is timely in light of the recent release of the Law Commission's final report "Alcohol in our lives: curbing the harm" and that effective regulation is needed to change New Zealand's harmful drinking culture.

"The forum has been organised to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about some of the issues we as a community are facing with regards to alcohol, and importantly, what they can do to help make a change.

"We welcome Christchurch residents to come along to this event, listen to the presentations, ask any questions they may have and find out what they can do to help make a difference."

Alcohol: The Ripple Effects will take place at ChristChurch Cathedral, Cathedral Square on Thursday 10 June from 7pm-9pm.

Ends -

Healthy Christchurch is a network of almost 200 organisations which work together to promote, protect and improve the health and well-being of the people of Christchurch.

Media are invited to attend this event. See separate invite for details.

Media enquiries

Christchurch City Council Communications Advisor Emily Davies on 03 941 8223

