

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR CHOICE?

New research findings from SHORE & Whariki Research Centre

The alcohol licensing system excludes the people and communities that it aims to protect.

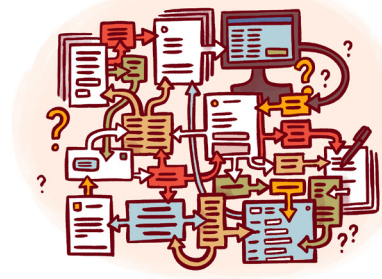
HERE'S WHY



Public notices for licence applications are hard to find



The hearings are during working hours, making it difficult to attend



The legal process is complex and non-inclusive



Finding sufficient evidence is difficult and time-consuming



The decision-makers often lack deep knowledge of the community

The research concluded that reforming the alcohol licensing system would let people have their say about alcohol stores in the areas where it is most needed.

When we include the full community in our decision making, we make the community safer for everyone.

READ THE RESEARCH REPORT:

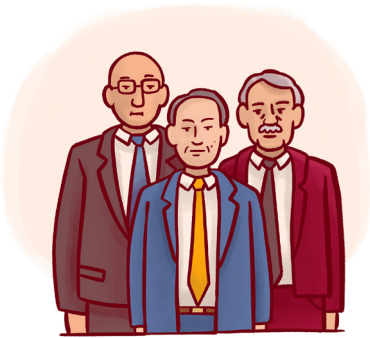
[BIT.LY/INCLUSIVITY-REPORT](https://bit.ly/inclusivity-report)

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The alcohol licensing system doesn't honour Te Tiriti, meaning Māori are often excluded from the decisions that impact their communities.

HERE'S WHY



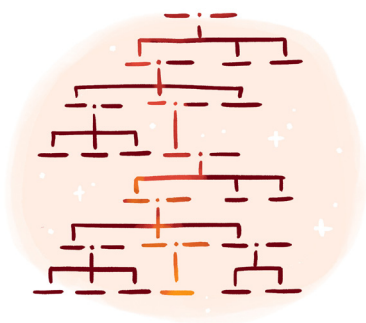
There's a lack of diversity among decision-makers



Important aspects of Māori culture aren't recognised



The authority of community leaders is challenged



Whakapapa is not recognised in deciding who can speak



The hearing environment is legalistic and feels unsafe



Despite alcohol disproportionately impacting Māori, licensing law does not refer to Te Tiriti

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The alcohol licensing system fails to hear the voices of communities most impacted by alcohol and licences continue to be granted where the risks of harm are high.

HERE'S WHY



Public notices for licence applications are hard to find



Making a strong case to oppose a licence takes time, evidence and legal support



The process is alien and intimidating - lawyers challenge people's right to speak and what they say



Decision-makers put less weight on community evidence



In the end, alcohol problems well-known to the community are missed or ignored

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