

## 2. Background

The DLA's first Liquor Licensing Policy was produced in 1993. It was replaced in 1996 with a policy that remained as an interim document pending public consultation that was deferred until the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 was amended. The Liquor Licensing Policy: reducing alcohol abuse, September 2000 was adopted after the impact of the Sale of Liquor Amendment Act 1999 was considered. Two years later a policy review examined the implications of recent changes to the licensing environment and resulted in the current policy.

While there is no legal requirement for the DLA to have a policy, a specific policy allows for the particular requirements of the City's community to be expressed and assists both the DLA and LLA in making their decisions. In particular the LLA has indicated that clear DLA policies providing direction on local matters will carry more influence within their decision making process.

Finding a balance between the needs of the community and the entertainment and recreation sectors is not always easy. Wellington City is an entertainment destination and the bars, clubs and taverns provide life and vitality to many parts of the City. However, a boundary is crossed when alcohol consumption becomes excessive and alcohol abuse occurs. Where this happens or there is the potential for this to happen the DLA will act to protect the health of the community as required by the Sale of Liquor Act 1989.

The Amendment Act 1999 strengthened the role of DLAs. This policy builds on previous documents to provide a transparent and consistent set of guidelines that will support this increased role for the DLA within Wellington City.