



Media Release

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DSANZ submission on Public Health Bill

The Distilled Spirits Association of New Zealand (DSANZ) has today released its submission to the Health Select Committee on the Public Health Bill currently before Parliament.

The Association supports the broad intentions of the Bill, but is concerned about clauses that extend new, wide-ranging and discretionary powers to the Director General of Health. These allow the Director General to impose codes of practice, guidelines and regulations on specified activities without consultation with industry or reference to Parliament.

“Our concern is that this could lead to regulation that is unnecessary, has unintended consequences for industry or consumers, or is in conflict with existing Codes of Practice that have served the community well for many years,” the Chief Executive of the Association, Thomas Chin, said today.

“We also believe it would be undesirable for regulation that could have far-reaching effects to be made without reference to Parliament. To date, matters of significance to the liquor industry and its customers have been determined by Parliament, and we believe this is an appropriate model that should be maintained.

“Our understanding is that these views are shared by other sectors of industry whose day-to-day business would potentially be affected by the Bill.

“As a result of our concerns, we have suggested a number of amendments to the Bill to protect the status of existing Codes of Practice and to require consultation where change is contemplated.”

Mr Chin appeared before the Committee, at its sitting in Auckland today, to speak in support of the submission.

The DSANZ submission can be viewed at www.distillers.co.nz

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