



*Library and Information Association  
of New Zealand Aotearoa  
Te Rau Herenga O Aotearoa*

### **Submission to Christchurch City Council on the Psychoactive Products Retail Locations Policy**

LIANZA supports the Council proposal to define the locations where retail premises can sell psychoactive products, and believes this is a great initiative for the health of the Christchurch community. In addition we agree with the proposal to limit the sale of psychoactive substances to the centre city, and to restrict the sale of these products close to identified sensitive sites.

However, we believe that the definition of sensitive sites should be expanded to specifically include public libraries. The intent of sensitive sites is to include “sites which are used by people who are, or may be, more vulnerable to the influence of the sale of psychoactive products”. With 68% of Christchurch residents active members of their public library<sup>1</sup>, it is logical to assume that patrons of public libraries will include sectors of the community who are more vulnerable to the influence of psychoactive products.

Both Central Libraries Manchester and Peterborough libraries currently face challenges from individuals under the influence of alcohol and illegal drugs. Prior to the current ban on the sale of legal highs Manchester had people congregating daily outside their library intimidating families and elderly wishing to use the library. At the time Police informed library staff that these individuals were there because Peaches and Cream (one block away) was selling legal highs. In addition Manchester has dealt with violent and abusive patrons where again, police have informed staff that legal highs are at the root of their behavior.

Librarians have a duty of care to protect their younger customers and not expose them to adults affected by these substances. We urge the council to reduce the burden of this duty of care on librarians by including public libraries on the list of sensitive sites.

*We do not wish to speak in support of our submission.*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lianza.org.nz/resources/lianza-publications/public-library-statistics/public-library-statistics-20122013>