

## Alcohol licensing infosheet

# Retirement villages

Retirement villages that sell or supply alcohol to their residents must be licensed under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. There are different options available to a retirement village, including: a special licence, an on-licence, or a club licence.

### Special licence

Special licences are designed for particular events occurring at a premises which is not generally licensed. An on-site special licence enables the licensee to sell and supply alcohol for consumption on site to people attending the event described in the licence.

If the number of times that the sale or supply of alcohol is going to take place is limited to once or twice a month, the village could apply for a special licence. The application would be made by either a single person responsible for the sale and supply or by the company running the village. It is up to the District Licensing Committee in that region as to whether it will allow up to, say, 24 events a year under that special licence.

### On-licence

If a retirement village wants to sell or supply alcohol more often than once or twice a month, or is not holding particular events such to satisfy the requirements for a special licence(s), it will generally be more appropriate to apply for an on-licence. This would also allow sales and supply not just to residents, but also to residents' visitors. A Licensing Inspector, the Police or

Medical Officer of Health might suggest that an on-licence is more appropriate than a series of special licences.

The village would need to appoint a manager who must be on duty at all times alcohol is sold or supplied and comply with the Act's other requirements for on-licences.

### Club licence

If the village has a club such as a social club it could apply for a club licence. Alcohol can only be sold or supplied to club members, guests accompanied by club members, or members of another club with reciprocal visiting arrangements.

The holder of a club licence must comply with the relevant provisions of the Act. These include ensuring that no person consumes any BYO alcohol while the premises are open for the sale or supply of alcohol, a reasonable range of food is available for purchase and consumption on the premises, and help with and information about transport is freely available.

The application would be made by the club and permission will need to be given by the company running the village.

## BYO

If no licence is held by the village and, if permitted by the village, residents can meet together to consume their own alcohol they have purchased elsewhere on a BYO basis without the need for a licence, but no sales must take place on the village premises. Ticket sales or similar which can be redeemed for alcohol must also not occur unless a licence is in place.

**Te Whatu Ora/  
Health New Zealand**

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For more information visit [alcohol.org.nz](http://alcohol.org.nz)