

# 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO BEFORE THIS YEAR'S ELECTION

1. Become familiar with the policies political parties have about alcohol, other drugs, and problem gambling. Let this inform and guide your vote.
2. Reflect on God's Word and what the Bible says about these areas of life and let this guide your vote.
3. Discuss social hazard issues with your whānau, friends and church family.
4. Ask other trusted people for advice.
5. Talk to your local candidates about these issues and ask them questions.

And then (if you're eligible to do so) ... **VOTE!**

## FURTHER READING

*Off the Track: The 2017 State of the Nation Report.*  
Online at [www.salvationarmy.org.nz/OfftheTrack](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/OfftheTrack)

*Territorial Positional Statement on Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs,* [www.salvationarmy.org.nz/PositionalStatements](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/PositionalStatements)

*International Positional Statement on Alcohol in Society,* [www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips](http://www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips)

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS: [www.prayeratparliament.org.nz](http://www.prayeratparliament.org.nz)



*The Salvation Army believes that human beings are created in the image of God and that therefore the body should be treated with respect. (see 1 Corinthians 3:16)*

*Accordingly, The Salvation Army promotes the welfare of the body, as well as the mind and spirit. While certain lifestyle choices may be legally and socially acceptable, some choices may be neither helpful to the person concerned, nor to those likely to be influenced by their actions. (see 1 Corinthians 8:9)*

TERRITORIAL POSITIONAL STATEMENT ON ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS

## WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

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**Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit**

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

Te Ope Whakaora

# ELECTION

SERIES 2017

Make your vote count

# SOCIAL HAZARDS



“IF WE ARE TO BETTER THE FUTURE, WE MUST DISTURB THE PRESENT.”

CATHERINE BOOTH



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## SOME FACTS

### ALCOHOL

Over 19% of our population drank hazardously in 2015/16 (Health Promotion Agency).

79% of New Zealanders pre-loaded (drank at a residence before drinking at a pub/bar), the fourth highest rate in the world (Drug and Alcohol Review).

WATCH: Local Alcohol Policies (LAPs) are now operating in communities, governing the sale and supply of alcohol in that geographic area.

### ILLICIT DRUGS

Cannabis is the most commonly used drug in New Zealand (NZ Drug Foundation).

9,886 people were convicted for illicit drug offences in 2016, compared to 13,708 people in 2011 (The Salvation Army Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit).

WATCH: Deaths and harm related to synthetic cannabis have been very much in the news lately.

### GAMBLING

In 2016, there were 16,221 Class 4 non-casino gaming machines (pokies) in New Zealand, compared to 18,167 in 2011 (The Salvation Army Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit).

## OUR RESPONSE

The Salvation Army has provided addiction treatment in New Zealand since 1907. Today, we deliver a safe, integrated and high-quality service to those affected by the harmful use of, or dependency on alcohol or drugs, or problem gambling. People are supported, challenged and encouraged to make positive changes in their lives to find hope, direction, peace and stability.

**Bridge:** Our alcohol and other drug addiction treatment is based on four key elements: Partnership, a Community Reinforcement Approach, a 12 Step Recovery Journey, and the wider Salvation Army as a practical expression of Christian-based love and concern for all people in the community.

**Oasis:** Those experiencing gambling-related harm receive counselling for themselves and their whānau. Public health services are also provided to support safe gambling environments, raise awareness and strengthen communities.

*‘Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.’*

ROMANS 12:2 (NIV)

*The Salvation Army encourages a healthy spiritual, emotional, mental, physical and social lifestyle without the recreational use of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco ... abstinence from these substances is the most effective way to set an example of personal responsibility for healthy living.*

POSITIONAL STATEMENT

## WHERE DO THE PARTIES STAND?

### A QUICK OVERVIEW

**National Party:** Test offenders and people on bail for alcohol and drugs; implement a 24/7 alcohol and drug phone line called ‘RecoverRing’ for offenders and prisoners; employ alcohol and drug aftercare workers in prisons.

**Green Party:** Make cannabis legal for personal use (with a legal age limit); phase out all broadcast, billboard and print advertising of alcoholic beverages, along with sponsorship by alcohol brands; keep the purchase age for alcohol at 18.

**Mana Party:** Abolish pokie machines from communities; end alcohol advertising on radio and TV; continue the ban on synthetic cannabis; end gambling advertising in all media.

**United Future Party:** Maintain current legal status of cannabis; maintain funding of drug treatment programmes; implement anti-drug programmes in schools.

**Conservative Party:** Increase drinking age to 20; lifetime zero-alcohol limit for recidivist drink drivers; remove all synthetic highs.

**Opportunities Party:** Raise drinking age to 20; raise the price of alcohol; legalise and regulate the use of cannabis.

*The Labour, Māori Party, NZ First and ACT parties have not announced policies in these areas at time of writing.*