

Drug and Alcohol Policy

Wellington Health Professional Students' Association recognises the impact of harmful alcohol use and seeks to promote responsible drinking behaviour by health professional students. WHPSA recognises events run by the Association are an important starting point to do this.

However, WHPSA also recognises that there is a diversity of perspectives within the health professional student body towards alcohol consumption. In recognition of both the need to represent the views of our members and the need to minimise alcohol related harm, WHPSA seeks to adopt a balanced position. We seek to provide a variety of WHPSA events and activities that appeal to drinkers and non- drinkers alike, as well as taking steps to normalise and promote healthy drinking behaviours at events where alcohol is a focus. WHPSA considers promoting healthy drinking behaviours to involve:

- Emphasising and normalising moderation in alcohol consumption at WHPSA events.
- Seeking to minimise the harm associated with heavy drinking at WHPSA events by providing sober drivers, ascertaining emergency contact details and taking appropriate steps to ensure safety of event attendees.
- Ensuring that WHPSA events are inclusive to those who are not consuming alcohol.

In order to promote healthy drinking behaviours, WHPSA is committed to implementing measures at all events. The use of these is discretionary. Measures that will be taken at all events:

- All events run by WHPSA include an alcohol plan outlining what steps will be taken to promote responsible drinking, minimise alcohol-related harm and include those who wish not to drink.
- All WHPSA events where alcohol is served will also feature an equivalent selection of attractive non-alcohol drinks as well as some form of food.
- WHPSA should identify an individual who will be responsible for sober driving intoxicated individuals. The responsible individual should have adequate information made available regarding emergency contacts and other personal information deemed relevant.
- For every event run by WHPSA that has a significant focus on drinking, another event without such a focus on drinking could be run.

While WHPSA recognises the reality of drug use within our society, we do not condone the use of illicit drugs at any of our events. However WHPSA adopts the position of seeing drug use as a health issue rather than a criminal one, and consequently WHPSA will take appropriate steps to resolve issues arising from inappropriate drug use at events.

