



Alcohol limit lower from 1st Dec 2014

Planning is the key for boozy end of year functions.



The end of the year and the silly season is fast approaching. For most of us that means rushing around doing Christmas shopping, attending kids end-of-year functions and concerts, after work drinks and end of year work functions.

We tend to consume alcohol at a lot of end-of-year functions, and with all the rushing round from place to place it may be more difficult to keep track of how many drinks you have had.

But it is important to realise that one drink too many can lead to a whole lot of grief.

Please be aware that from December 1st 2014, the alcohol limit for drivers 20 year and older is being lowered. This means that you must not drive if the amount of alcohol on your breath is more than 250 micrograms of alcohol per litres of breath.

The main change is that if you are stopped and the evidential breath test reading is between 251 and 400mcg of alcohol per litres of breath you will now receive an infringement notice for \$200 and 50 demerit points.

The infringement notice will not result in a criminal conviction but if you accumulate 100 or more demerit points within two years you will receive a three month driver licence suspension that can lead to a whole lot more problems.

If your breath test reading is over 400mcg of alcohol per litre of breath or 80mcg of alcohol per 100ml of blood you will face a charge of driving with excess breath/blood alcohol with the same penalties that currently exist.

Please help keep the road toll down and keep you and your family safe this Christmas by not drinking and driving.

If you are unsure how much alcohol you can consume before driving it might be better not to take the risk and have a sober driver, organise an overnight stay, or get a taxi.

Julia Williams
Pakuranga Community Constable

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