MEDIA RELEASE

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ALCOHOL ID SYSTEM - BUT WHERE IS THE MONEY FOR TREATMENT PROGRAMS?

“More than half a million dollars is to be spent by the NT Government for a system to monitor alcohol sales through an identification system,” says Loraine Braham, Independent Member for Braitling. “Customer’s personal details will be removed from the system each night.”

“As well, the Commonwealth Government requires recording of names and addresses for purchases of alcohol worth $100 or more - a log that is retained, despite the NT system removing names each night.”

- Will all these measures reduce “excessive and harmful consumption”?

- Has the “dry town” stopped the drinking in public places in Alice Springs or Katherine?

- Has there been any lessening of assault presentations at the local hospital?

“At the same time, there is a scarcity of rehabilitation and support programs to assist people with drinking problems to overcome their addiction. This approach targets the heart of the problem.”

“But there seems to be money galore to impose restrictions on every Territorian.”

“Is it any wonder people are fed up with restrictions all over the place when governments are failing to concentrate efforts on the people who need it most?”

“Merely forcing people to cut down on drinking is just one part of the equation. Encouraging sensible drinking, and supporting those people who are unable to cope with their addictions, is a vital parallel that is, unfortunately, not receiving the necessary attention by government.”

“There have been so many reviews and reports into alcohol abuse and they all say the same thing. Restricting sales, places, and times to drink will not alone reduce the harm that alcohol does in our community.”

“I urge Minister Burns and Commonwealth Minister Macklin to synchronise the restriction requirements on ID and fully resource treatment programs.”