14 April 2011

Rehabilitating Problem Drinkers Back into Society

Problem drinkers turned off tap and onto the banned drinkers register will be rehabilitated with a comprehensive range of alcohol treatment services funded in Budget 2011.

“To tackle crime your must tackle alcohol abuse: our reforms aim to stop the harm problem drinkers are doing to their families, their communities and themselves,” Treasurer Delia Lawrie said today.

Speaking at the new Salvation Army building in Berrimah, Ms Lawrie said the expanded services were crucial to getting problem drinkers off the grog and into society.

“The Territory Government is committed to tackling alcohol misuse, which fuels 60% of all assaults and accounted for 54,000 incidents of protective custody last year,” Ms Lawrie said.

“To tackle alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour we have committed $67 million over 5 years, including $34.2 million on treatment.

“Budget 2011 provides an extra $10.9 million in 2011-12 to implement initiatives under the “Enough is Enough” alcohol reforms, including $5.2 million to enhance existing alcohol treatment options and establish new services to meet the demands of people with significant alcohol problems.

“While the ID scanner system will turn problem drinkers off tap, rehabilitation will put them on the path to recovery.”

Budget 2011-12 delivers $5.2m for treatment including:

- $3.5 million to expand services currently provided by non-government organisations, including 25 extra beds in addition to about 400 currently on line;
$0.7 million for community-based outreach case management and intervention;
$0.5 million for alcohol withdrawal support; and
$0.5 million for brief interventions delivered through primary health care providers and additional service development

“Bed numbers are just part of the solution, the package will fund new staff and a range of services including early intervention, withdrawal support and expanded outreach services to treat problem drinkers in remote areas,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Government will work with important service providers such as AMSANT to deliver these initiatives.

“Whether a first intervention, or intensive treatment for long term abusers, problem drinkers will get the services they need to get off the grog and back in control of their lives.”

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