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Alcohol Reforms Public Awareness Campaign

Minister for Alcohol Policy, Delia Lawrie, and Police Commissioner John McRoberts today launched an advertising campaign to prepare Territorians for the “Enough is Enough” Alcohol Reforms, which take effect from July 1.

“The Territory Government is committed to tackling alcohol-related crime, with alcohol a factor in 60% of all assaults in the Territory,” Ms Lawrie said.

“From July 1, problem drinkers will be turned off tap and mandated into treatment and a Banned Drinker Register rolled out to help enforce the bans Territory-wide.

“ID scanners will be installed in take-away liquor outlets across the Territory, requiring people buying take-away alcohol to have their existing photo ID, such as a driver’s licence, evidence of age card or passport, scanned at the point of sale.

“The system is not a ‘licence to drink’, but a quick scan to compare your existing photo ID against the Banned Drinker Register.

“The system does not record any information, however it is vital that all Territorians are informed that from July 1, they will not be able to buy alcohol without government-issued photo ID.”

Northern Territory Police Commissioner John McRoberts said the scanning system was an important tool to help Police fight crime and anti-social behaviour.

“Last year my officers took 54,000 intoxicated people into protective custody and arrested thousands more for alcohol-fuelled assaults,” Mr McRoberts said.

“The ID scanner system will help enforce bans on Problem Drinkers by enabling licensees to identify banned drinkers and refuse service.”

Problem Drinkers can include people taken into protective custody three times in three months or people who commit alcohol-fuelled crime or violent offences.

Bans can be reduced by attending treatment or rehabilitation, but drinkers who breach bans will have longer bans imposed or be ordered to attend treatment and rehabilitation.

“For the majority of Territorians who are responsible drinkers, the scan is a small inconvenience to help Police and social services turn Problem Drinkers off tap and get them into treatment,” Ms Lawrie said.
“The advertising campaign has a simple message – from July 1, you must have existing ID to buy takeaway alcohol anywhere in the Territory.

“The system allows us to target the Problem Drinker; if you are not on the Banned Drinkers Register, you can buy your alcohol as normal.”

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