DAY ONE OF ALCOHOL MANDATORY TREATMENT

1 July, 2013

Up to 800 problem drinkers every year will undertake alcohol rehabilitation as part of the Country Liberals Government’s Alcohol Mandatory Treatment measures, which get underway today.

Health Minister, Robyn Lambley, said the scheme will assist problem drinkers to overcome their addictions and provides a pathway for recovery for some of the Territory’s worst alcoholics.

“At today’s roll-out phase, up to 150 beds will be available across the Territory for Alcohol Mandatory Treatment, with the number increasing to up to 200 as the scheme grows,” Mrs Lambley said.

“The Country Liberals have invested $45 million into Alcohol Mandatory Treatment this year - and more than $100 million over the next three years – to ensure problem drinkers have a pathway out of addiction.

“Alcohol Mandatory Treatment puts real meaning behind Police Protective Custodies.

“Last year there were almost 20,000 Police Protective Custodies in the Territory – but no consequence for those placed into repeat custodies.

“Under Alcohol Mandatory Treatment, anybody placed in Protective Custody three times in two months could face up to 12 weeks of treatment in centres across the Territory.

“The Northern Territory Government has consulted heavily with key stakeholders before to the roll-out of Alcohol Mandatory Treatment.

“We believe Alcohol Mandatory Treatment will help problem drinkers, the families of problem drunks and communities.

“I look forward to the continuation of the roll-out in coming months.”

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