Alcohol ID System: Call for Submissions

The Licensing Minister Chris Burns today launched a discussion paper on the possible introduction of an identification system to buy alcohol in Alice Springs.

Dr Burns said the discussion paper aims to provide Government with a range of views relating to such a system.

"Alice Springs has an unacceptably high level of harmful alcohol consumption among some groups and this has a negative effect on the community as a whole," he said.

"Although the Territory Government has introduced a number of initiatives to address the problem, including dry areas legislation, Alcohol Courts and restricted alcohol sales, additional approaches must be explored."

The paper outlines current options for enforcing and monitoring conditions that prohibit or limit people from buying and drinking alcohol.

It also raises questions that must be considered before a decision is made about whether an ID system should be implemented such as:

- Whether an ID system should be part of licensing conditions and if so, should it apply to all licensees?

- Who should pay for such a system?

- Whether it should be paper-based or electronic?

Dr Burns said the Alice Springs Alcohol Management Plan includes an action to "explore the feasibility or a permit or licence system for takeaway alcohol."

"The management plan is part of the Responsible Alcohol Management Framework, which is a Moving Alice Ahead project – all designed to help address issues in Alice Springs," Dr Burns said.

"This discussion paper is an important consideration for the people of Alice Springs. I
encourage all those interested in the ID issue to lodge a submission with Racing, Gaming and Licensing.”

The paper can be viewed on the website: www.justice.nt.gov.au. The deadline for submissions is May 28.