Alcohol Initiatives Working In Tennant Creek

A new report has found that Territory Government initiatives to reduce alcohol abuse and alcohol fuelled Alcohol related assaults in Tennant Creek are working.

The Minister for Alcohol Policy, Delia Lawrie, said Menzies School of Health Research had undertaken an independent evaluation of the Government’s Tennant Creek Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) and other measures to reduce alcohol-related problems.

“The report has found that initiatives introduced by Territory Government have had a significant impact on reducing alcohol abuse and associated violence and harm in Tennant Creek,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The report concluded that following the introduction of the AMP in August 2008, alcohol consumption has dropped by 4.5 per cent.

“That equates to 2760 litres of pure alcohol or 163,565 cans of heavy beer no longer being drunk in Tennant Creek.

“The report also found that since the introduction of the AMP alcohol-related assaults have dropped 24.8 per cent while incidents of anti-social behaviour have dropped by 27 per cent.

“While presentations to the hospital emergency department are down 36 per cent.

“Importantly 84 per cent of people who were surveyed as part of the Menzies report supported the declaration of Tennant Creek as a dry town and the majority of people also supported all of the restrictions on take away alcohol trading.”

Ms Lawrie said while the Government was broadly supportive of the recommendations made in the Menzies Report, the Government would defer the reinstatement of an alcohol free day in Tennant Creek.

“The Government last month announced comprehensive Territory-wide alcohol reforms and would defer further alcohol restrictions in Tennant Creek until the impact of the broader reforms are known,” she said.

“The reforms include the introduction of a Territory-wide Banned Drinker Register to turn the tap off to problem drinkers and stop alcohol fuelled crime and violence.

“The Government is working with the Tennant Creek community on the roll out of an electronic identification system which is expected to go live in March.
“The Government supports the other recommendations to re-engage community organisations in future alcohol initiatives and to overhaul the AMP to develop specific objectives.

“Tennant Creek has a long history of the community working together to address issues around alcohol abuse and I am confident this desire to work together will continue.”

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