Investing in a safer Territory

Budget 2012 invests in a safe Territory, delivering more funding to tackle alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour.

Minister for Alcohol Policy, Delia Lawrie, said the $18.2 million investment in Budget 2012 represents an increase to the Henderson Government’s commitment under the “Enough is Enough” alcohol reforms to turn problem drinkers off tap and into treatment.

“More than 60% of assaults in the Territory are alcohol-related, and the Territory Government’s alcohol reforms are already having an impact, with more than 2,300 problem drinkers currently on the Banned Drinkers Register and alcohol-related assaults dropping across the Territory after just six months of operation,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Budget 2012 continues to invest in the suite of reforms, the $18.2 million investment includes a $1.5 million boost in funding for the SMART court and Alcohol and other Drugs Tribunal (AOD) to increase their resources to manage the number of problem drinkers.

“This brings total funding committed to the five-year program to $71.5m.

“The extra funding in Budget 2012 supports a recent proposed expansion to the Alcohol reforms giving extra powers to the Police and AOD to get problem drinkers out of parks and into rehabilitation.”

In the second year of the Enough is Enough Alcohol reforms, funding for treatment increases substantially, with an extra $3.6m bringing total investment up to $8.755 million towards rehabilitation services including:

- $800,000 for remote community AOD Centres;
- $1m extra in withdrawal support;
- $900,000 more for Community based outreach.
“Police say the Banned Drinker’s Register is the best tool they have ever had to fight alcohol-related crime, and Budget 2012 continues the Territory Government’s commitment to building a safer Territory,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Treatment and rehabilitation services which have already seen a huge overhaul under the alcohol reforms, including:

- Improved pathways for withdrawal clients, reducing referral times for people presenting at Emergency Department at Royal Darwin Hospital to community based residential treatment services from 8 days to less than three hours;
- 120 training sessions held with Treatment providers across the Territory, including remote communities;
- 18 extra treatment beds;
- Extra resources for treatment providers meaning more staff at more times enabling more access to treatment services and programs for problem drinkers.

“Our continued investment in treatment and rehabilitation will get those problem drinkers hurting themselves and the community off alcohol, out of the justice system and back into society.”

Media Contact: Patrick Hastwell 0427 017 803