10,000 less anti-social incidents under Banned Drinkers Register

After 12 months in operation, the Territory Government’s bold ‘Enough is Enough’ alcohol reforms are having a significant impact on anti-social behaviour, crime and alcohol consumption.

Minister for Alcohol Policy, Delia Lawrie, said that the reforms were continuing to tackle harm in our community by getting 2500 problem drinkers off-tap and into treatment pathways.

“The Territory Government is committed to maintaining the Banned Drinkers Register, which in its first year of operation has reversed the trend with alcohol-related assaults dropping in Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs and Katherine,” Ms Lawrie said.

“For the same period, alcohol related assaults not associated with domestic violence have decreased by 6.3% Territory wide, including drops of 6.2% in Darwin, 10.2% in Palmerston, 18.1% in Katherine and 19.6% in Tennant Creek.

“Increased domestic violence numbers in some regional centres led to a 2% increase overall, reflecting successful campaigns by NT Police over the same period to increase reporting and changes in recording of certain offences.

“Even more telling has been the impact on anti-social behaviour, with a reduction of more than 15% Territory wide and 25% in Darwin,” Ms Lawrie said.

“This means a staggering 10,000 less anti-social behaviour incidents over 12 months, supporting anecdotal evidence that our streets and parks are far quieter since the introduction of the BDR.

“In 2011/12, alcohol-related incidents reduced by 20%, equating to over 14,000 less incidents.

“In addition, data collected from wholesalers shows pure alcohol supply between 2010 and 2011 has dropped 3% or 71,000 litres, equivalent to over 270,000 2 litre casks of wine.

“Integral to the reforms is a $34.2m investment in treatment to rehabilitate problem drinkers, which is delivering more beds, increased capacity, counselling, case work and outreach services to get problem drinkers turning their lives around.

“Pathways to treatment or withdrawal have been reduced from 8 days to three hours, with emergency Alcohol and Drugs Nurse positions established or being established at Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy hospitals.
"The new SMART court has issued 125 orders for treatment, and the Alcohol and other Drugs Tribunal has conducted 49 hearings."

The Tribunals new income management powers come into effect on October 1.

"While there is still much work to be done, alcohol-related assaults, anti-social behaviour and consumption are all falling under our reforms.

“Enough is Enough is supported by the health sector and police who say the Banned Drinker Register is the best tool they have to tackle alcohol-related crime.

“In stark contrast, the CLP want to scrap the BDR, putting problem drinkers back on the grog and hurting our community.”

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