BDR DID NOT WORK

28 March 2013

The Banned Drinkers Register did not reduce drunken violence on our streets and did not stop drunks accessing alcohol.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said a huge haul of alcohol obtained by Alice Springs Police today illustrates why the BDR simply did not work.

“Today’s haul of 44 bottles of spirits, two bottles of wine and a carton of beer from a house in Gillen in Alice Springs shows just one way how drunks were accessing alcohol while on the BDR.

“Police allege the alcohol was being sold illegally without a license from the residence and have arrested two men over the haul.

“Clearly effective policing and more police on the street are working where the BDR failed.

“As well as buying alcohol illegally from operations like this, drunks on the BDR could still access alcohol through a third party such as a friend or relative or purchase alcohol in licensed venues.

“The BDR simply made no difference. The same people were being taken into custody over and over again.

“During the 2011-12 financial year, while the BDR was in operation, 431 people had eight or more Protective custody episodes.

“In one example, one person on the BDR was placed into custody 117 times in 12 months, that’s once every three days.

“The quarterly crime statistics, that this Government has now made publically available, further show that the BDR did not work.

“The latest statistics accurately show the effect of the BDR as they compare the December 2011 quarter (when the BDR was in full swing) with the December 2012 quarter (once the BDR had been scrapped). During the December 2012 quarter, alcohol fuelled assaults dropped by 5.9 per cent across the Territory.

“The Country Liberals Government is focused on breaking the cycle of problem drinkers by addressing the real problem which is behaviour.

“We will be releasing our alcohol rehabilitation policy in the coming weeks; Labor meanwhile remains a policy-free zone.”

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