Alcohol Rehabilitation Minister, Robyn Lambley, says the Government’s Alcohol Mandatory Treatment program continues to assist problem drinkers break out of addiction and to improve lives.

“There are currently nine problem drinkers across the Territory currently undertaking Alcohol Mandatory Treatment, with many more expected in coming weeks and months,” Mrs Lambley said.

“These people are benefiting from support and treatment programs that have never before been made available in the Territory to some of the most vulnerable people in the community.

“By contrast, the previous Labor Government tried to target everybody but succeeded in achieving nothing.”

In the five weeks since Alcohol Mandatory Treatment commenced:

- 79 people have had two Police Protective Custodies
- 29 people have had three Police Protective custodies
- 10 people were excluded from Alcohol Mandatory Treatment with outstanding charges and referred back into the criminal justice system
- Of the 13 people referred to assessment in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine, nine have received an Alcohol Mandatory Treatment order.
- 4 will undergo assessment later in the month

“The Government is moving to improve security within Alcohol Mandatory Treatment facilities in light of recent incidents at the Darwin facility,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Additional security has been placed in the centre and a meeting of relevant Departmental CEOs is scheduled to identify ways to improve the system.

“That said, the Government has always been very clear that the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment facilities are not prisons – a point belatedly acknowledged by the Opposition Leader on radio this morning.”

Media Contact:
Camden Smith 0488 588 754