MEDIA RELEASE

Michael Gunner
SHADOW MINISTER FOR ALCOHOL POLICY

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EXPERTS SLAM CLP BDR SCRAPPING

Shadow Minister for Alcohol Policy Michael Gunner called on the CLP Government to heed the expert evidence led today that their alcohol policies were hurting Territorians.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal communities saw irrefutable data that showed the BDR worked, with Dr John Boffa saying:

“If I as a doctor failed to follow an evidence based treatment approach and as a result of this malpractice my patient ended up in hospital I would be potentially de-registered. Why is OK for a government to ignore evidence and cause this much harm?”

“Today’s release of the report by the National Drug Research Institute clearly shows that the Banned Drinkers Register was effective in addressing problem drinking and its effects on our community,” Mr Gunner said.

“It highlights the massive increase in Emergency Department presentations for wholly alcohol caused conditions at Alice Springs Hospital which occurred when the CLP Government scrapped the BDR in September 2012.

“Importantly, it analyses this data in light of the change in Police procedures following the death in custody of Kwementyaye Briscoe in January 2012, which saw most people apprehended on protective custody being sent to the Emergency Department for medical assessment.

“The report concludes that analysis of the data with the context of what was happening on the ground provides unequivocal evidence of the effectiveness of the BDR in preventing alcohol related harm in our community.

“It’s time that the CLP Government pulled its head out of the sand and admitted that all the evidence is saying their policies are producing harm right across our community.

“The CLP Government needs to start listening and implement policies that actually work, not do more harm.”

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