The Country Liberals Government has chosen a site for a new multi-million dollar Alcohol Mandatory Treatment facility in Katherine, as part of its plan to tackle alcohol abuse across the Northern Territory.

“Alcohol Mandatory Treatment is an important part of our suite of measures that are working to tackle chronic alcohol abuse in the NT,” Minister for Alcohol Rehabilitation Robyn Lambley said.

“I am pleased to announce that we have chosen a site for a new Alcohol Mandatory Treatment facility in Katherine, at a cost of at least $4 million.

“The 20 bed secure facility will be crucial in the Country Liberals Government’s plan to rehabilitate more problem drinkers, reduce alcohol related harm and anti-social behaviour in the town.

“Since Alcohol Mandatory Treatment began, 56 people have been referred for treatment in Katherine, with 16 people placed under a treatment order during the January to March quarter.

“By building this secure facility, we can expand the number of people who can access treatment in the town, giving them the chance to turn their lives around and re-connect with their family and community.”

Member for Katherine Willem Westra van Holthe said the Chardon Street site in Katherine was ideal for an Alcohol Mandatory Rehabilitation facility.

“The 6600 square metre site is not flood affected and is in the town’s industrial area, close to the Stuart Highway, and the necessary planning processes are now underway.

“It’s estimated that the build will inject several million dollars into the Katherine, and the facility will also create many employment opportunities in the town.

“This is wonderful news for the local economy and for the health and well-being of the broader community.

“Alcohol abuse continues to be a major concern for Katherine residents and the wider region as it affects families, neighbourhoods and businesses.

“Having an Alcohol Mandatory Treatment facility in the town means people can access the treatment they need to get off the grog, while remaining close to their family and cultural ties, which is very important in the rehabilitation process.

“Only the Country Liberals Government has a plan that is working to curb alcohol abuse and produce better health outcomes for all Territorians.”
Mrs Lambley said the third quarterly figures for Alcohol Mandatory Treatment released today show the scheme is taking chronic alcoholics off the streets and giving them the opportunity to rehabilitate and improve their health outcomes.

Between January and March, 104 people were referred to Alcohol Mandatory Treatment

“More than 300 people have been referred for Alcohol Mandatory Treatment since it began in July last year,” Mrs Lambley said.

“In the last six months of the scheme, 154 people have been placed under income management orders – with the majority under orders of 12 months.

“Alcohol Mandatory Treatment is the first scheme of its kind in Australia, and it is addressing the very serious issue of alcohol abuse in the Territory, that Labor’s failed policies did nothing to change.

“The Government will soon release the results of the review into the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act.

“It is anticipated that the AMT Review will be before Cabinet in the coming weeks.”

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