Robyn Lambley
Minister for Alcohol Rehabilitation

**Six month review of the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act**

26 June 2014

Minister for Alcohol Rehabilitation Robyn Lambley has released the six month review of the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act.

Mrs Lambley said the review focused on the AMT legislation and attracted 12 submissions, with other feedback contributed through focus groups and client interviews.

“This is an opportunity for the community to have a look at the review and comment on the recommendations,” Mrs Lambley said.

“There are 48 recommendations, which include many technical changes that will improve operations through the legislation.

“It is recommended that legislation making it an offence to abscond from AMT more than 3 times should be changed.

“However the Territory Government is concerned that public drunkenness is a serious issue and we want people to complete their Alcohol Mandatory Treatment order, so we will have to consider this recommendation very carefully before making a decision.

“I’ve heard dozens of stories now about how AMT has helped people reconnect with their family and their community, and most importantly improve their health outcomes.

“Other recommendations include extending the assessment period so clinicians can apply for more time to assess clients who are very intoxicated or sick.

“There is also a recommendation for the Territory Government to consider allowing other people into AMT, who do not enter the scheme through the protective custody pathway.

“For example, if these changes to the legislation are made, an Emergency Department physician who sees a person come in every night intoxicated may be able to refer this person to AMT.

“I look forward to the community’s feedback on the review and continuing our important work in helping hundreds of Territorians who are afflicted by alcoholism to access the rehab they need to be safer and happier, and turn their lives around.”
The review is available at http://health.nt.gov.au/

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