Winning the war on grog

22 November 2014

New alcohol figures prove the Country Liberals’ alcohol policies are working, driving down both consumption and supply over 2013.

“The latest figures for the 2013 calendar year show estimated per capita alcohol consumption is at its lowest level since at least 2001,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“This vindicates the Government’s decision to axe Labor’s failed Banned Drinker Register and replace it with a range of measures targeted at individuals with a drinking problem.

“Estimated per-capita consumption of alcohol dropped to 12.9 litres per person in the 2013 calendar year after the Banned Drinker Register was axed.

“This is the lowest figure for a calendar year since the Country Liberals were last in Government and covers the period when our Alcohol Mandatory Treatment program first came into operation.

“I’m optimistic we’ll see continued declines in the 2014 calendar year when our full suite of alcohol measures has been in effect.”

Territory-wide, estimated per-capita consumption in 2013 was four per cent less than it was in 2012.

“The statistics show that Alcohol consumption peaked under Labor’s watch in 2005 at 15.25 litres per person,” Mr Giles said.

Wholesale alcohol supply (litres of pure alcohol content) across the Territory in 2013 was two per cent less than the previous year.

- In Darwin supply was **down** one per cent in 2013
- In Alice Springs supply was **down** six per cent in 2013
- In Katherine supply was **down** six per cent in 2013
- In Tennant Creek, supply was **down** six per cent in 2013
- In Nhulunbuy, supply was **down** 14 per cent in 2013 - a decrease of 47 per cent from its peak in 2006 under Labor.
“Less alcohol in the hands of problem drinkers means less victims of violence and that’s what my Government and the Northern Territory Police are working hard to achieve,” Mr Giles said.

The Giles Government’s full suite of alcohol measures including Alcohol Protection Orders, intensive Temporary Beat Locations and Alcohol Mandatory Treatment has been in place since the start of the year and in that time we have seen dramatic drops in violence.

“The latest crime statistics show that since January, alcohol-related assaults have plummeted 18 per cent Territory-wide compared to the same period last year, proving that these measures are effectively protecting women and children from violence,” Mr Giles said.

In Tennant Creek, alcohol-related assaults have halved, in Alice Springs they’re down 31 per cent and Katherine 19 per cent.

“The Country Liberals are committed to driving down crime and tackling alcohol issues in the community and we are delivering results. Police should be congratulated for their efforts in delivering these impressive figures,” Mr Giles said.

“Unlike Delia Lawrie’s failed Labor Government, the Country Liberals take law and order seriously. Our policies are delivering, driving crime down and cutting alcohol consumption.”

A summary of the figures is attached.

Media Contact: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801

Dept of Business - Alcohol Data Summary.pdf