GOVERNMENT TO FAST TRACK REGIONAL ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT PLANS

27 June 2013

Chief Minister Adam Giles and Health Minister Robyn Lambley have announced the Northern Territory Government will develop a new town-wide Alcohol Management Plan for Alice Springs.

“The Alcohol Management Plan will be over-sighted by a newly created Alice Springs Alcohol Reference Group and involve community and stakeholder consultation, including licensees and Indigenous organisations,” Mr Giles said.

“Alcohol Management Plans will contain local-based strategies that build on and enhance past and existing programs right across the alcohol supply, demand and harm reduction areas.

“Finalising this Alcohol Management Plan by 1 December 2013 will assist in curbing alcohol related harm in the town.

“The Northern Territory Government is developing a comprehensive suite of measures including mandatory treatment in an effort to improve the health outcomes for chronic alcoholics, their families and the broader community.

“These measures will fit with the Alcohol Management Plan.

“Problem drinkers have a right to the best medical treatment available to help them get control of their addiction and their lives, including the right to help from qualified clinicians and counsellors. The revolving door of protective custodies and sobering up shelters is not working.

Health Minister Robyn Lambley said she was confident that with the support of the community and stakeholders the Country Liberals Government can make a difference where the former Government failed.

“The former Territory Government tried in vain to re-develop a town-wide plan in Alice Springs but were unable to get everyone to pull in the same direction with meeting after meeting for months but no outcome,” Mrs Lambley said.

“The Government will also assist Katherine and Tennant Creek in finalising their Alcohol Management Plans.

“A lot of good work has gone into the Katherine plan and we will support its implementation.

“The Giles Government has a comprehensive strategy for tackling alcohol abuse in the Northern Territory.”

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