MEDIA RELEASE

NATASHA FYLES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Natasha Fyles
Minister for Health

Making Our Community Safer - New BDR Equipment Rolled Out

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The Territory Labor Government is meeting an important election commitment this week with the roll out of machinery for the Banned Drinker Register (BDR) commencing.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Natasha Fyles said scanning devices that are needed to operate the BDR will be rolled out to take away alcohol outlets across the Territory – starting today in Nhulunbuy.

“The former CLP government failed Territorians when they scrapped the BDR in 2012 and failed to implement anything in its place,” Ms Fyles said.

“We’re re-introducing the BDR across the Territory from September 1 to make our communities safer.

“The Northern Territory has unacceptable levels of violence and crime associated with alcohol abuse.

“We know that 70% of the alcohol sold in the NT is take away. That’s why we are bringing back the BDR to ban problem drinkers from buying take away alcohol and redirect them to rehabilitation.”

Minister Fyles travelled to Nhulunbuy for the roll out of equipment today and to talk to local community and business groups.

“We have listened to concerns from stakeholders around the impacts of scanners on their business and we’ve taken action to make sure we find the best solutions possible,” Ms Fyles said.

“Recent testing of the software with the Territory’s older model scanners discovered unacceptable scanning performance times.

“To combat this we are bringing forward a planned roll out of new devices across the Northern Territory.”

This week officers from Licensing NT will be visiting venues in:

- Nhulunbuy
Minister Fyles said the Banned Drinker Register will return September 1.

"To make sure that the system is ready we'll be testing the software from mid-August in the communities of Nhulunbuy, Groote Eylandt, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Milikapiti will be the first to trial the new software," Ms Fyles said.

“A new mobile solution is being developed for the Territory’s 28 drive through bottle shops and will be in place for the September 1 roll out of the BDR.”

Legislation to bring back the BDR is expected to pass parliament next month.

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