Alcohol to be Banned in Alice Town Camps

The Northern Territory Government today announced alcohol will be banned in Alice Springs town camps.

The Licensing Minister Chris Burns said the ban will be in place for six months and then evaluated. The Government will also examine further bans on a region-by-region basis for other town camps across the Territory.

“The Aboriginal community is paying a high price for excessive alcohol consumption – and this must stop,” Dr Burns said.

“Alcohol abuse contributes to crime, anti-social behaviour, sexual abuse, family breakdown and chronic illness.

“In some cases alcohol leads to death.

“The Territory Government’s Little Children are Sacred report highlighted the fact alcohol-attributed mortality in Central Australia is more than double the rate in the Top End.*

“In the current circumstances we must take this step.”

Dr Burns said legislation allowing the ban will be introduced on urgency in the August sittings.

“This will ensure the ban in town camps will be in force very soon after Alice Springs becomes a dry town on August 1,” he said.

“The Territory Government has already undertaken a number of measures in Alice Springs in particular to tackle alcohol abuse. These include the introduction of dry areas legislation, alcohol management and liquor supply plans and Alcohol Courts.”

*The Little Children are Sacred report, page 161

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