NT GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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Alcohol and Cigarette Sales to Minors Targeted

Licensing Minister Chris Burns today launched an initiative to crack down on the sale of alcohol and cigarettes to underage teenagers.

"Retailers and licensees who flout the law have been warned," Dr Burns said.

The crack down involves the Licensing Commission working with schools.

"While there are reports that some licensees and shopkeepers are breaking the law, the information the Licensing Commission receives is often insufficient to prosecute," Dr Burns said.

"But we know teenagers are more likely to speak to their schools about such incidents than the Licensing Commission. That's why we've approached schools to work with us.

"This is not an initiative to target teenagers or get schools to question students – what we want is to gather any information teachers may come across that will ensure we identify those shopkeepers, retailers and licensees operating outside the law.

"To aid schools, the Licensing Commission has appointed a licensing inspector to act as a school liaison officer who can offer advice and information.

"The Licensing Commission will work with school-based constables."

Dr Burns said licensees and retailers have a responsibility to ensure they are doing the right thing.

"With the help of schools, the Licensing Commission can ensure that happens."

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