Drink Spiking Jokers Won’t Get Last Laugh

Stronger laws to stop food and drink spiking will come into effect in the Territory tomorrow.

The Attorney-General Chris Burns said it is now an offence to add a drug or alcohol to someone’s food or drink as a prank.

“The Territory already has strong laws in place that make it an offence to administer a drug with the intent to commit a crime – for example sexual assault, assault, robbery or stealing,” Dr Burns said.

“It is also an offence to cause any substance to be taken with intent to cause serious harm, to disfigure or disable.

“The existing offence attracts a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

“What this new law will do is help stop those who spike someone else’s drink or food as a joke.

“Adding a drug or alcohol to someone’s food or drink can still cause injury, even if you don’t mean that injury to occur.

“The victim may already be intoxicated or taken prescribed medication or prohibited drugs that cause a powerful and harmful mix.

“Victims may also suffer allergic reactions, risk injuring themselves or could pass out making them vulnerable to further harm.”

The new law attracts a maximum sentence of two years imprisonment.

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