Alcohol restrictions working in Alice Springs

An evaluation undertaken by Menzies School of Health Research has found current initiatives put in place by the Territory Government to reduce alcohol related harm in Alice Springs are working.

The Minister for Alcohol Policy, Kon Vatskalis, today released the report which shows alcohol sales in the town have dropped by 18% since the introduction of the restrictions.

“The restrictions are a tough measure from a strong Government that is committed to addressing the curse of alcohol abuse,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“An 18% reduction in alcohol consumption is clear evidence that restrictions are working. This is a cut of around 544 four litre wine casks being drunk in Alice Springs each day.

“Alcohol abuse affects the whole community and most of the issues Alice Springs faces are related to alcohol abuse.

“While we have done a lot we acknowledge there is still much more to do to tackle alcohol abuse in the town.

“Importantly the report highlighted that key personnel such as police and hospital staff have identified improvements as a result of the restrictions, such as a reduction in serious assaults.”

The report recommends that the alcohol restrictions are retained in their current form and that extensive community consultation and education be conducted.

“Supply restrictions are an important component of dealing with alcohol abuse, but so is treatment and rehabilitation,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“As a result of recent budget increases there are now 71 rehabilitation and sobering up beds in Alice Springs.

“ Restricting alcohol and alcohol abuse will lead to better health outcomes, better education outcomes, less crime and anti social behaviour and a boost to tourism and other small businesses.”

Contact for media queries: Nikola Lekias 0438323660