Member for Katherine, Willem Westra van Holthe, says he’s deeply concerned at the number of drunks taken into protective custody in Katherine in 2009.

“I understand the number was in excess of 8600 last year, and I call on the Government to confirm that figure,” he said.

“The number reflects only those taken to Police cells and does not include the hundreds more who were either taken home or taken to the sobering up shelter.

“This figure is an absolute disgrace and reflects appallingly on Labor’s policies to deal with drunks and anti-social behavior.

“It will certainly come as no surprise to the residents of Katherine who are all too familiar with the sort of behavior that results in an average of 23 drunks a day being placed in protective custody.

“No doubt a large number of itinerants placed in protective custody are apprehended a number of times, which only adds to the community and police frustration.

“This Government has failed to adequately deal with this ever-increasing problem.

“Under a Country Liberals Government, anyone placed in protective custody three times in 6 months would receive mandatory rehabilitation.

“If that order is breached, the offender will be sent to jail.”

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430