

26 June 2017

By email: Alcohol.review@nt.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: SUBMISSION TO THE NT ALCOHOL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION REVIEW

Katherine Town Council (KTC) welcome the review of the NT Alcohol Policies and Legislation and take the opportunity to submit our response to the process. Whilst we acknowledge we are not subject matter experts, we support the points developed by Katherine Regional Action Group (KRAG) and LGANT, which are provided below.

Points of Note:

1. The NT needs a whole of government framework to deal with alcohol-related issues, similar to that now in place for domestic and family violence. The framework should extend across the entire NT.
2. Resources need to be put into addressing demand and harm, not just controlling the supply of alcohol.
3. Research done into areas such as community social clubs and permit systems must be released to the public. In general, data related to alcohol harm, demand and supply must be released to the public in a timely fashion and in plain language. This “supply and demand” aspect must be included in the scope of the review.
4. Katherine has been, and still is, under-resourced for counselling, rehabilitation, after care, short term and emergency accommodation and homelessness services.
5. NT and Federal alcohol policy directions require greater alignment.
6. The Point of Sale Identification (POSIs) have had a noticeable and positive impact on Katherine town and we are concerned that any decision to remove them suddenly may have a negative impact. It is acknowledged that POSIs have not ‘fixed’ the problem of alcohol misuse and in some cases has only displaced it somewhere else. However, similar to the BDR, POSIs are not designed to ‘fix’ the whole problem. They are one supply control tool in the toolbox and other measures need to be put in place to deal with demand and harm.
7. We would like to know if the effect of the POSIs has been evaluated? The release of this information (and the impact on the different regions) to the public appears essential.
8. The Katherine township needs the permanent presence of Public Housing Safety Officers (PHSO).

Areas in the *Liquor Act* that could be improved:

- Some public housing properties are known to have high levels of anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol misuse. The *Liquor Act* should allow for Private Restricted Area status to be enforced on these dwellings.
- The *Liquor Act* should consider making it an offence to provide alcohol through the mail (e.g. KRISCO), if it is addressed to communities/community living areas with General Restricted Area status.
- The Band Drinker's Register (BDR) should be embedded into and cross-referenced with the *Liquor Act* (even if it has its own legislation).

We look forward to a positive outcome from this Review for the whole of the Northern Territory and its people.

Yours sincerely,



Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE &
CHAIR OF KRAG



Robert Jennings
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Katherine Town Council