

30th June 2017

Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review
c/o Department of Health
PO Box 40596
CASUARINA NT 0811
Alcohol.Review@nt.gov.au

Dear Review Manager

SUBMISSION TO THE ALCOHOL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION REVIEW

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Northern Territory (NT) Government's *Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review*. This review process provides the NT Government with an important opportunity to implement comprehensive reforms to strengthen the regulation of alcohol and reduce alcohol-related harms in the NT.

In the Northern Territory, 38.6 per cent of people aged 12 years and older consume alcohol at rates that place them at risk of short-term harm and 28.8 per cent over consume alcohol at levels that place them at risk of long-term harm, including chronic disease and illness.¹ This is significantly more than the proportion reporting such consumption nationally (25.7 per cent and 17.6 per cent respectively).² The NT also has some of the heaviest consumption rates in the world. The latest data shows that consumption in the NT is 11.9 litres per capita.³ This means that if NT was a country it would be in the top ten counties with the heaviest consumption rates.⁴

I take a keen interest in evidence-based policy development and evaluation. I wish to submit my own work on the impact of public policy measures on alcohol harm. Research that I have conducted suggests that reducing late-night trading hours reduces alcohol-related violence.

This research has important implications for public policy, and may be used to guide strategies to reduce the harm caused by alcohol in our communities. For this reason, I urge you to consider this research in the context of the Northern Territory's *Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review*.

In my view, this research warrants consideration of trading hour restrictions.

If you have any questions relating to my work, or would like to discuss the issue further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to raise these important issues with you.

Yours sincerely

Claire Wilkinson, Research Associate
Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, LaTrobe University

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2014). *National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2013*. Retrieved from: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/alcohol-and-other-drugs/data-sources/ndshs-2013/>

² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2014). *National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2013*. Retrieved from: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/alcohol-and-other-drugs/data-sources/ndshs-2013/>

³ Department of the Attorney-General and Justice. (2016). NT wholesale alcohol supply for 2008-2015. *Northern Territory Government*. Retrieved from: <https://justice.nt.gov.au/attorney-general-and-justice/statistics-and-strategy/wholesale-alcohol-supply-data>

⁴ World Health Organization (2016). Global Health Observatory data repository. Recorded alcohol per capita consumption, from 2000 Last update: May 2016. Retrieved from: <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A1026?lang=en?showonly=GISAH>