

## **Talice Security Services - Submission to the Northern Territory Alcohol and Legislation Review**

Talice Security Services has been offering a comprehensive range of professional security services across the Northern Territory for over 30 years. Our services include but are not limited to event security, alarm monitoring and response, foot patrols, mobile patrols, cash and valuables escorts, static guard services, alarm and CCTV consultant services. Our long and extensive experience of working collaboratively with private clients and Northern Territory Government Agencies has provided us with valuable knowledge and insight into matters affecting the Northern Territory community and the impact of alcohol related harm.

Primarily this submission is focused on reducing supply strategies consistent with pillar 2 of the harm minimisation model outlined in the Northern Territory Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review, Issues Paper.

The current policy of NT Police Officers acting as alcohol point of sale security guards is expensive and a substantial drain on public resources. It comes at a large cost to taxpayers and impacts on police resourcing capacity. As widely reported through the media and comments made by the Northern Territory Police Association, police resources have been re-directed from specialist crime areas and many shifts were filled on overtime. This initiative has a major impact on the primary role of the NT Police Force reducing their law enforcement capacity, ultimately hindering their ability to serve and protect the people of the Northern Territory. This is substantiated by the recent publication of crime statistics over the last 12 months which has seen an appalling 400 percent increase in sexual assaults in Tennant Creek, with the majority of crime statics increased by a minimum of 22 percent and disturbingly an increase of 90 percent for commercial break-ins. Performing shifts day after day as security guards when you have been employed to perform law enforcement has the potential to de-skills highly trained police officers and impact on morale.

It is proposed that this function would be better performed by private security firms, who already receive comprehensive training on appointment and are subject to robust criminal history checks during the recruitment / selection and licensing process. Existing training could easily be customised to align private security services to the point of sale security functions. This training could be delivered by local providers further supporting the local economy. Private security officers are required to be licensed and perform services to legislated requirements, any breaches result in a loss of their security licence. The licencing requirement for private security is not imposed on Public Servants performing security functions for example Housing Safety Officers and Hospital Security who are employed in the Administrative Officer stream.

Privatisation supports the NT Governments current strategies and commitments to building local economies and recent budget announcements to reduce the NT Public Sector. This approach would build on enhancing existing partnerships and networks at the local level, which include Housing Safety Officers, local business owners, licensees, Youth Outreach Officers and the NT Police. A revised framework could include nominated liaison officers between private security and the NT Police and other NT Government Agencies to streamline responses to higher level critical incidents at point of sale outlets and to inform public safety policy development. This liaison and

strengthened partnerships between Government and private business could also enhance intelligence gathering capacity for the NT Police.

Additionally, contracts between the NT Government and private providers specify services and deliverable outcomes with any breaches resulting in cessation or non-renewal of contracts. Service delivery models and staffing requirements including training could easily be incorporated into these tender arrangements.

I look forward to the panels final report and ask that consideration be given to the matters raised above as part of their deliberations.

Yours Sincerely

Thomas Turnbull  
Director  
Talice Security Services