



## Katherine Country Club Liquor Review Submission

My name is Frank Dalton and I have managed the Katherine Country Club for 23 years. The Katherine Country Club has been supporting our local clubs and organisations since its inception in 1975. The Katherine Country Club would like to offer our formal support of the submissions made by both the AHA (NT) and Clubs NT. Further to these submissions we would like to offer the following issues affecting ourselves and our industry peers.

**Risk Based Licensing** - The Katherine Country Club does not support the introduction of risk based licensing fees. We feel that this model will be an unnecessary burden especially to licensed premises in remote areas that do not have the same or similar risk models to those in Eastern States. Furthermore the adding of compliance based penalties will cause management in venues to delay in calling police in circumstances where they believe licensing may take undue action in response. We believe however that if Risk Based Licensing were to be instituted regardless, venues should be able to offset this increase in fees with evidence of money spent on risk mitigation such as employment of security personnel, modifications of venue to reduce risks and responsible consumption education programs. We also believe that venues genuine participation in local liquor accords should be evidence of the venues attempts to reduce harm in the community and as such cause a reduction in Risk Based Licensing fees.

**Point Of Sale Intervention** – The Katherine Country Club feels that whilst the POSI program has helped to reduce alcohol misuse in Katherine it has had an effect of relocating this problem to Darwin rather than solving it. Furthermore this has caused an economic drain on all business in the community that service these displaced people. There have been many businesses closing their doors throughout the town and we have personally seen a reduction in the visits we receive from our regular patrons who own businesses. We also believe this economic displacement effect in the region would have been a contributing factor in the closure of the Katherine Sports and Rec Club.

**Public Transport** – The Katherine Country Club as well as many other venues in Katherine believe the state of our public transport is severely inadequate. The taxi services are frequently understaffed and it is not a rare occurrence when we are completely unable to reach either taxi service by phone to arrange safe transportation from the venue. Whilst we endeavour to provide a courtesy bus to patrons it is prohibitively expensive to operate this across all opening hours. We also find it very difficult to find adequate staff for this service due to high turnover and licence requirements. We strongly believe that NTG should provide concessions to assist us in this matter such as free registration for courtesy vehicles, removing fees for H endorsement applications and tests and allowing for the costs of running these vehicles as an offset for community benefit payments.

**Venue Barring** – In our experience the current systems in place do not allow for enforcement of trespass notices. We have had numerous instances of police refusing to take action in breach of trespass both where the trespass was served by ourselves and where the trespass was issued by a third party security company. We have now had to institute a policy of video recording the service of trespass notices to provide police with “adequate” proof of service which is an unrealistic requirement for most managers. We advocate for a Territory wide standard trespass form with clear

requirements of the proof of service as well as NT Police being less reluctant to enforce these so that we may provide safer venues and keep serial troublemakers away.

**Entertainment** – A serious problem affecting us is an extreme minority in the community (namely 1 person out of thousands) being able to make noise complaints about our venue causing a requirement for us to take drastic measures to show our compliance. This has been the case even where we have been able to show that NO musical act has performed on the date complained of. This burden has severely decreased our ability to support local and inter-state musical acts and bring them to the vast majority of community members who enjoy this. We have received many complaints about the decrease in these acts however there is no system in place for this community feedback to act counter to the minority. The Katherine Country Club as a community organisation welcomes feedback from our local community and in no way wishes to discourage actual meaningful criticisms of the Club. We feel however licensing should have a broad discretion in circumstances where a complainant has been found to be making repeated malicious complaints to summarily dismiss these complaints without requiring a venue to go through a lengthy process to show compliance.

**Trading Conditions** - We would like to strongly emphasise our support for the Clubs NT submission with particular regard to clarifying the trading condition that “Alcohol purchases for consumption on a golf course should be considered as on-premise consumption and excluded from the BDR protocol.”