Territorians want safe communities that are thriving both socially and economically.

Updated research from the Menzies School of Health Research indicates alcohol-related harm costs the Territory upward of $1.38 billion per year.

This report confirms alcohol-related harm is hurting the Territory both socially and economically and we need to continue with our evidence-based approach to tackling it.

I am pleased to announce we have completed 75 of the 219 recommendations since the release of the first Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019 12 months ago.

We have made significant progress against the remaining recommendations. The rewrite of the Liquor Act is progressing this year and will complete a further 70 recommendations.

The latest report details a further six months of progress on the implementation of the Riley Review and provides a road map to a safer Territory, delivering generational change through alcohol reforms.

We are seeing some early positive results from our reforms with reductions in alcohol-fuelled assault, domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and emergency department presentations.

• NT-wide Emergency Department presentations have reduced by 24 per cent in December 2018 compared to 2017.

• In Alice Springs, alcohol-related assaults have reduced by 44 per cent in September-December 2018 compared to 2017.

We are working closely with non-government organisations, community groups and industry to successfully implement these recommendations.

Through our coordinated measures, we are blocking the supply of alcohol to problem drinkers.

The Banned Drinker Register is stopping problem drinkers from accessing takeaway alcohol. More than 8000 people have been placed on the BDR since it began in September 2017.

We are making communities safer with the roll out of a Police Auxiliary Liquor Inspectors (PALIs) workforce in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine. There are currently 39 deployed and a further 23 PALIs are now in training. All 75 PALIs will be in place this year.

We have also introduced a new 12-member Alcohol Policing Unit to enforce licensing laws and tackle secondary supply. These officers are proving a vital resource in blocking secondary supply with more than 3000 litres of alcohol seized by NT Police in 2018.

The Police Commissioner has been given additional powers to shut down pubs, clubs or shops who do the wrong thing. Already the Police Commissioner has suspended licenses for 48 hours on five occasions.

In October 2018 we introduced a floor price for alcohol. This was a key recommendation of the Riley Review and early signs indicate this measure is working effectively with our suite of reforms.

We will continue to consult on the best ways to deliver and implement these recommendations.

Natasha Fyles
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Health
Strengthening Community Responses

Healthy Communities and Effective and Accessible Treatment

259 Monthly average alcohol treatment episodes
(meaning more people are voluntarily seeking treatment to address problem drinking)

24/7 Extended opening hours for the Mission Australia Sobering Up Shelter, Stringybark in Darwin

3987 People registered on the BDR in January 2019

$1.38 billion the social cost of alcohol related harm in the Northern Territory per year, using 2015/16 statistics. Tangible costs $701.3 million and intangible $685.5 million.

Tangible costs include:
- approx $100 million in health costs
- approx $58 million in road crash costs
- approx $273 million costs of crime
- approx $171 million in child protection costs

Strengthening Community Responses

**ON TRACK**

Focus on working with Aboriginal communities to decide how to address alcohol-related harm

In the past two years, Alcohol Action Initiative funding has supported a number of alcohol free festivals and events in remote communities throughout the NT. The Department of Health will lead the project with significant input from NT Police and the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice.

**COMPLETE**

Review of sobering-up shelters

The Review of the Northern Territory Sobering Up Shelters (the Review) released in December 2018. The Review made ten recommendations to enhance the overall functions of the Sobering up Shelters, all of which are supported by Government.

**COMPLETE**

On Track a demand study for alcohol treatment services in the Northern Territory

The first phase of the Demand Study will be released in early 2019.

**ON TRACK**

Development of targeted education campaigns

The Department of Health will develop targeted education campaigns with the support of the Alcohol Education Campaign Working Group.

**ON TRACK**

Develop guidelines for permit systems

NT Police have commenced an initial investigation to review existing police practices, issues and opportunities regarding permit systems at Groote Eylandt, Maningrida and Nhulunbuy.

**ON TRACK**

Screening for alcohol use at pregnancy

Establishment of the Alcohol and other Drugs Youth Grants Program

Re-instate the P.A.R.T.Y Program in the Northern Territory

Develop a targeted education campaign about secondary supply in remote communities

Aligning the operating hours of sobering-up shelters and community patrols

**COMMENCED**

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‘ADDRESSING FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD) IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY 2018–2024’ – THE NORTHERN TERRITORY’S FIRST FASD STRATEGY

The NT FASD Strategy was released in December 2018 to prevent and reduce FASD’s devastating impacts in our community. The NT FASD Strategy will prevent and reduce the impacts of FASD by:

- prioritising the assessment of children in out of home care and in the juvenile justice system.
- improving the ability of family and communities to respond to neurodevelopmental impairment.
- supporting the establishment of multidisciplinary assessment clinics.
- working in partnership with the Primary Health Network, Aboriginal Medical Service and the Aboriginal Community controlled health sector.

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Effective Liquor Regulation

Over 120 Decisions made by the Northern Territory Liquor Commission since its establishment in March 2018

Over 3000 Litres Of alcohol marked for illegal secondary supply seized by Police in 2018

Determinations by the Commissioner of Police to suspend a liquor licence for up to 48 hours under section 48B of the Liquor Act since June 2018

Total number of Police Auxiliary Liquor inspectors in training and deployed undertaking Point of Sale Inspection (POSI) duties in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine

323 Compliance visits undertaken by Licensing NT between November 2018 and January 2019

Taxis seized under section 95 of the Liquor Act for bringing alcohol into an Alcohol Protected Area between March and December 2018

62/75
Re-write the Liquor Act
The new Liquor Act will commence by the end of 2019.
The following initiatives will be addressed through the Liquor Act rewrite:
✓ Improving Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) requirements
✓ Review of infringement notices
✓ Enforcing mandatory signage in licensed premises in accordance with harm minimisation principles
✓ Strengthen powers to control, restrict or prohibit undesirable promotional activity in relation to both on-premises licences and takeaway licences
✓ Strengthen powers to restrict or prohibit undesirable liquor products

Developing an Advertising Code of Practice under the Liquor Act in accordance with harm minimisation principles
Consultation completed. Comments received from stakeholders and industry are being prepared for the Northern Territory Liquor Commission’s consideration

Annual Audit and Compliance Plans
The ‘Compliance and Enforcement Framework’ was considered by the Northern Territory Liquor Commission at its meeting on 6 February 2019. Timing of the publication of the ‘Compliance and Enforcement Framework’ will be at the Northern Territory Liquor Commission’s discretion.

Empower Public Housing Safety Officer, Public Housing Officers and Police to make an application for a public housing residence to be declared a restricted premise
Government is considering the legal advice in regards to the implementation of this matter.

Collaboration with NT Police and Licensing NT to be underpinned by a service level agreement
A Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Licensing NT and NT Police will be finalised in early 2019

Establishment of the Northern Territory Liquor Commission

Five-year moratorium on takeaway alcohol licenses

Introduction of a floor price of alcohol products in the Northern Territory

Retaining Point of Sale Interventions
The Northern Territory estimated per capita consumption rate in 2017 was 11.55 litres of pure alcohol, per person.

The Data and Evaluation Working Group agreed to five key indicators to regularly measure how policy interventions are impacting on alcohol-related harms in the NT:

1. the number of alcohol-related deaths
2. overall consumption rate
3. alcohol-related assaults
4. alcohol-related emergency department presentation
5. alcohol attributable instances of serious road injury

The datasets for these indicators can be viewed at alcoholreform.nt.gov.au.

In Dec 2018 (compared to Dec 2017), there was a 24.5% reduction in the total number of alcohol attributable ED Presentations in NT hospitals.

In Sept/Dec 2018 in Alice Springs (compared to the same period in 2017), there was a 44% reduction in alcohol-related assaults.

Source: Northern Territory Wholesale Alcohol Supply Report 2010 to 2017, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

Source: Alcohol attributable emergency presentations monthly report – Dec 2018, Innovation & Research, Department of Health

Source: Crime Statistics monthly report – December 2018, Northern Territory Police
• Commence regular collection and publication of alcohol-related data, including online alcohol sales to accurately inform consumption data in the Northern Territory
• Commit to providing feedback from all data collected to stakeholders to evaluate the impact of strategies on minimising alcohol-related harm
• Establishing data standards for all data collectors and establishing secure data sharing arrangements to enable analytics between government and service providers compliant with information privacy principles.

The Data and Evaluation Working Group determined the five indicators for measuring the minimisation of alcohol-related harm. These indicators are widely accepted as reliable indicators for measuring levels of alcohol-related harm in Australia. The Northern Territory Government will also be reporting against the indicators contained in the National Alcohol Strategy 2018–2026 (currently under development).

The Data and Evaluation Working Group continue to investigate how data sharing can strengthened between government agencies and service providers.

**ON TRACK**

**Trials of the Cardiff model**

Work is underway to establish a version of the Cardiff model in the emergency department in Darwin and in Alice Springs to link emergency department data with assault statistics to inform policy development and prevent alcohol-related violence in the Territory. It is anticipated that the trial will commence in March 2019.

**ON TRACK**

**Commit to providing feedback from all data collected to stakeholders to evaluate the impact of strategies on minimising alcohol-related harm**

In December 2018, Government determined that the revenue raised from annual risk based licensing and application fees for liquor licences under the new Liquor Act will contribute to the costs of evaluation of alcohol-related harm minimisation projects; the development of education campaigns; and other alcohol-related harm minimisation projects, including key research.

**ON TRACK**

**Establishment of a ‘Last Drinks’ Survey**

**COMPLETE**

- Publication of BDR statistics
- Further build on the work of the Criminal Justice Research and Statistics Unit to inform Government policy and investment.

Undertake a demand study

The first phase of the demand study will be released in early 2019.
Comprehensive, Collaborative & Coordinated Approach
Collaboration with the Commonwealth Government to ensure consultation with Aboriginal communities about alcohol are properly executed and culturally appropriate

Early discussions continue between departmental officers from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of the Chief Minister and the Department of the Attorney-General regarding the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012 (Cth) as it relates to the Liquor Act rewrite.

When considering grocery store licenses, it was clear that a balance needed to be achieved between meeting the intent of the Riley Review (to minimise alcohol-related harm) and keeping small Territory businesses viable. After almost a year of consultation with key stakeholders, Government decided on a final position that achieves these priorities.

ARIT held many meetings with industry groups, took many phone calls from licensees and visited every single independent grocery store to make sure all licensees were informed about the changes, to answer questions, and provide feedback to Government.

We will continue to consult with grocery store licensees and industry groups to ensure expectations are clarified, policy reasoning is explained and the pathway to compliance is clear.

You can contact the Alcohol Review Implementation Team either by emailing alcohol.review@nt.gov.au or leaving feedback on our website alcoholreform.nt.gov.au

Developing the capacity of the NT Police Territory Intelligence and Co-ordination Centre (TICC)

The role of an alcohol analyst has been established in the TICC, with recruitment currently underway.

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Establish the Alcohol Review Implementation Team

Release the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan and publish six-monthly progress reports

Establishment of an Industry Reference Group

Continue the roll-out of the Local Decision Making agenda