Minister's Foreword

In February 2018, Government released the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018–2019 (the Action Plan) that committed to implementing ground-breaking initiatives to minimise alcohol-related harm in our community.

In the third and final progress report against the Action Plan, the following major initiatives have been completed:

- Rewrite of the Liquor Act 1978
- Introduction of the floor price
- Establishment of the Northern Territory Liquor Commission
- Roll-out of Police Auxiliary Liquor Inspectors
- A demand study for alcohol treatment services in the NT
- Release of the first NT FASD Strategy
- Publication of alcohol-related data

The Liquor Act 2019 represents one of the most significant initiatives to date, completing over 70 recommendations of the Riley Review. It represents a collaborative effort between Government, non-government organisations and industry to build a solid legislative framework to regulate liquor in the Northern Territory, with harm minimisation as the primary purpose.

I thank everyone who has contributed to the consultation for the Liquor Bill 2019. Whether it was appearing before the Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee or attending one of the public forums for the exposure draft Liquor Bill in April 2019, your contribution was valued.

Our ground-breaking alcohol reforms are being recognised on a national scale. In March 2019, the NT won the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol award for Most Progress in Alcohol Policy Development in 2018.

Our goal is simple: to minimise the harm that alcohol causes in our community. Territorians deserve to live in safe communities, and our Government has delivered:

- 17.3% reduction in NT Emergency Department presentations in July 2018 to June 2019 compared to same period in 2017/18
- 42.5% reduction in alcohol-related assaults in Katherine from Oct–Dec 2017 compared to April–June 2019
- over 17 000 litres of alcoholic beverages marked for illegal secondary supply seized by NT Police

Alice Springs was the first region to have the floor price, the BDR and PALIs all working together – the results in harm minimisation are astounding (see pages 12–13).

Our work doesn’t stop here. These early indications show positive signs that these reforms are working, we now have to keep the momentum going.

Since the release of the Riley Review in October 2017, Government has implemented 168 out of 219 accepted recommendations. 40 recommendations have commenced implementation and are expected to be complete in the near future. 8 recommendations involve review or evaluating an initiative in the future, and 3 recommendations require further planning as to how they will be implemented. The alcohol policy unit in the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice will lead the next stage of the alcohol reform agenda.

I thank the non-government organisations, industry and the community who have engaged with Government to implement these reforms.

Hon Natasha Fyles MLA
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Health
HARM MINIMISATION

TERRITORY WIDE

- **27%**
  - Reduction in high range drink driving offences in 2019*, compared to the same period in 2018
  
  * Year ending in June
  Source: Criminal Justice Research & Statistics Unit, Northern Territory Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

- **23%**
  - Reduction in alcohol-related assaults NT wide for the period of July 2018 to June 2019, compared to the same period in 2017/18
  
  Source: Alcohol-related Assaults – June 2019, Criminal Justice Research and Statistics, AGD

- **17.3%**
  - Reduction in ED presentations in the NT for the period of July 2018 to June 2019, compared to the same period in 2017/2018 represents a potential ED saving of:

  - **$1 million** annually for emergency departments
  - **$25.4 million*** of broader health savings

  These savings are from reductions in ED presentations alone. Further investigations are underway to estimate further costs.

  *Source: Innovation and Research, Northern Territory Department of Health
- **15%** reduction in alcohol-related assaults in Darwin for the period of July 2018 to June 2019, compared to the same period in 2017/18
  
  Source: Alcohol-related Assaults – June 2019, Criminal Justice Research and Statistics, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice (AGD)

- **17.5%** reduction in alcohol-related assaults involving domestic violence in Palmerston for the period of July 2018 to June 2019, compared to the same period in 2017/18
  
  Source: Alcohol-related Assaults – June 2019, Criminal Justice Research and Statistics, AGD

- **31.5%** reduction in alcohol-related assaults in Tennant Creek in 2019*, compared to the same period in 2018, representing the lowest rate recorded since 2009
  
  * Year ending in April
  
  Source: Criminal Justice Research & Statistics Unit, AGD

- **26%** reduction in alcohol-related Emergency Department presentations in Gove District Hospital in the period of April–June 2019, compared to the same period in 2018
  
  Source: Alcohol attributable emergency presentation by hospital – June 2019, Innovation and Research, Department of Health

- **42.5%** reduction in alcohol-related assaults in Katherine from Oct–Dec 2017 to April–June 2019
  
  Source: Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services as of 1 August 2019

- **63%** reduction in protective custody episodes in Alice Springs in the period of July 2018 to June 2019, compared to the same period in 2017/18
  
  Source: Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services
COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

13 motor vehicles seized since October 2018 for transporting alcohol in Alcohol Protected Areas

Over 17,000 Litres of alcoholic beverages marked for illegal secondary supply seized by NT Police between June 2018 and June 2019

200+ decisions made by the independent Northern Territory Liquor Commission since its establishment in March 2018

75/75 Police Liquor Auxiliary Liquor Inspectors recruited to undertake Point of Sale Inspection (POSI) duties in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine

1000+ infringement notices issued in the last 12 months

7 successful prosecutions from the Alcohol Policing Unit for breaches of the Liquor Act 1978
NT wins the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol award for most progress in alcohol policy development in 2018 in recognition of the initiatives achieved under the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018–2019

Progress on the Recommendations of the Riley Review

- **2017**: 168 recommendations completed between October 2017 and August 2019
- **2018**: 40 recommendations have commenced implementation and are expected to be completed in the near future
- **2019**: 8 recommendations involve a review or evaluation of a harm minimisation measure in the future

NT wins the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol award for most progress in alcohol policy development in 2018 in recognition of the initiatives achieved under the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018–2019

The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice will lead the next phase of the NT Government alcohol reform agenda.
Strengthening Community Responses

- Undertake a demand study for alcohol treatment services in the Northern Territory
- Undertake a review of sobering-up shelters
- Align the operating hours of sobering-up shelters and community patrols
- Establish 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
- Improve screening for alcohol use at pregnancy

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

Undertake a review of ‘drinking spots’

Government will continue to work with remote communities to provide appropriate support. Alcohol Action Initiative funding has supported a number of alcohol-free festivals and events in remote communities throughout the NT. The Local Decision Making framework empowers Aboriginal communities to work with Government to address how alcohol is managed in their communities. The review of ‘drinking spots’ will be an element of this ongoing work.

Development of targeted education campaigns

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

Develop guidelines for permit systems

Guidelines for the management of permits will be developed under the authority of section 313 of the Liquor Act 2019.
Annual Audit and Compliance Plans

The Compliance and Enforcement Policy is being revised by Licensing NT to align with the new Liquor Act 2019.

Collaboration with NT Police and Licensing NT to be underpinned by a service level agreement

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NT Police and Licensing NT was finalised in March 2019. The MoU facilitates the lawful exchange of relevant information between the agencies, enhances cooperation and collaboration and provides a platform for planning, information gathering and other measures to improve compliance and enforcement outcomes.

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

The regulation of restricted premises was investigated as part of the development of Liquor Act 2019. Under section 187, Police are eligible to apply for a declaration of a restricted premise.

Annual Audit and Compliance Plans

The Compliance and Enforcement Policy is being revised by Licensing NT to align with the new Liquor Act 2019.

Developing an Advertising Code of Practice under the Liquor Act in accordance with harm minimisation principles.
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.

Alcohol-related data can be viewed and extracted on the alcohol reform website: alcoholreform.nt.gov.au/data-and-evaluation

Undertake a demand study
The Demand Study for Alcohol Treatment Services in the NT was released on 23 May 2019. The study was jointly led by Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) and the University of New South Wales, in partnership with the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT (AMSANT).

Trial of the Cardiff model
NT Health has consulted with Deakin University Centre for Drug Use, Addictive and Anti-social behaviour Research (CEDAAR) to enable NT hospitals to participate in the national research project based upon the Cardiff model. This will enable emergency departments throughout the NT to collect data about alcohol related presentations to inform crime prevention.
Comprehensive, Collaborative & Coordinated Approach

**COMPLETE**

- Establish the Alcohol Review Implementation Team
- Release the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018–2019 and publish six-monthly progress reports
- Establish the Industry Reference Group
- Continue roll-out of the Local Decision Making agenda
- Develop the capacity of the NT Police Territory Intelligence and Co-Ordination Centre (TICC)

**COMPLETE AND ONGOING**

Collaboration with the Commonwealth Government to ensure consultation with Aboriginal communities about alcohol are properly executed and culturally appropriate.

The NT Government will continue their engagement with the Commonwealth Government regarding Alcohol Protected Areas established under the *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012* (Cth) as the sunset clause for the legislation approaches in 2022 and other matters regarding alcohol in remote communities.

Government has committed to a continued focus on alcohol policy by agencies responsible under the Administrative Arrangement Orders, led by the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice.
CASE STUDY: ALICE SPRINGS

Alcohol-attributable emergency presentations in Alice Springs Hospital

Representing a reduction between 2017/18 and 2018/19

33%

Source: Alcohol attributable emergency presentation monthly report – June 2019, Innovation and Research, Department of Health

Alcohol-related Domestic Violence Assaults in Alice Springs

Representing a reduction between 2017/18 and 2018/19

37%

Source: Alcohol-related Assaults, June 2019, Criminal Justice Research and Statistics, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

Oct 2018: BDR, PALIs and floor price all in place


Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

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There is no ‘silver bullet initiative’ that minimises alcohol-related harm. The Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019 has delivered a range of initiatives to work together to minimise alcohol-related harm in our community. Alice Springs was the first region to have BDR, floor price and PALIs in operation at the same time.

Alcohol-related Assaults, not involving Domestic Violence, in Alice Springs

Representing a reduction between 2017/18 and 2018/19

- 45%

Source: Alcohol-related Assaults, June 2019, Criminal Justice Research and Statistics, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

Protective Custody Episodes in Alice Springs

Representing a reduction between 2017/18 and 2018/19

- 63%

Source: Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services