

Mr Russell Goldflam
Acting Deputy Chairperson
Northern Territory Liquor Commission
GPO Box 1154
DARWIN NT 0801

Via email: Liquor.Commission@nt.gov.au

Dear Mr Goldflam

Russell,

RE: REVIEW OF CONDITIONS OF LIQUOR LICENCES

I refer to your letter of 27 October 2020 to Ms Barbara Kelly in the Barkly office, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (the Department) seeking the following de-identified data from 1 January 2017 to the present, in relation to Tennant Creek and, if available, the Barkly region:

- o notifications of child neglect or abuse that the Department has received; and
- o notifications of child neglect or abuse that the Department has substantiated.

The Department works with community, families, individuals and stakeholders to achieve lifelong wellbeing and belonging by ensuring Territorians are safe, have a home, remain connected to culture and recreation, and can access support services when needed.

To assist the Liquor Commission in the assessment of the current restrictions, information is included in two attachments.

Attachment A provides data for the period 1 January 2017 to 30 September 2020 reporting the number of child protection notifications received, the number of notifications that proceeded to investigation, and the number of investigations in which harm to a child was substantiated. Data is also provided for notifications associated with an alcohol context.

Family support data is also provided for this reporting period, including family support cases commenced and new admissions of children into out-of-home care. It is noted that the new admissions data does not include a figure for 2020-21, as there were no new admissions of children into out of home care from 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020.

The data does not indicate any significant change in notifications since the commencement of varied takeaway trading conditions of liquor licences in the Barkly region on 12 June 2018. There are some fluctuations across the data that are not considered unusual.

Further information is also provided at Attachment B for the Commission's consideration regarding the Northern Territory Government policy context relating to minimising alcohol related harm and preventing and reducing family and sexual violence, including the Department's work in the Barkly region.

It is noted that the Liquor Commission has sought submissions from stakeholders and the community regarding the review of conditions of liquor licences in the Barkly region. The Department recommends that specialist family and sexual violence services operating in Tennant Creek and the broader region be provided an opportunity to contribute input if they have not already been contacted.

For any queries regarding this response, the Director Government Relations, Ms Jane Burton, can be contacted on 8999 2984 or by emailing Jane.Burton@nt.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Ken Davies PSM
Chief Executive Officer

20 November 2020

Russell, it is fair to say C.P. notifications in the Barkly have stabilised as have the number of children coming into care. This in my view is an outcome of increased service provision to families in Tennant Creek and better coordination by key government agencies including ourselves, police, education and health. It is my strong view that the current alcohol restrictions have played a significant role in this stabilisation phase. Domestic Violence remains an ongoing challenge in the Barkly region and Tennant Creek in particular. The control of Alcohol supply remains a mission critical to the safety and well being of families and children in Tennant Creek. Ken.