

## SUBMISSION

Review of takeaway license conditions in Alice Springs

From: Jennifer McFarland

To: Liquor Commission

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I read through the proposed variations to the Liquor License conditions in Alice Springs with great interest, as my working life for the past three decades has been involved with developing and implementing alcohol and other substance harm reduction strategies in collaboration with Aboriginal remote communities in the southern NT region.

Some observations on the proposed variations:

A general observation is that the proposed variations are practical, thoroughly researched and well thought through. The variations could be implemented quickly, and with minimal need for public funding. The variations are also complementary to other measures that are already in place.

Alcohol misuse is and has been a major exacerbating factor in the majority of violent offences committed in Central Australia. This is nothing new and has been recognised as a major contributor to many local social issues for decades.

It is heartening to see in the variation proposals that the 4 licensed premises in the Alice Springs CBD will be required to use the BDR for patrons drinking on their premises, as these are the source of most of trouble. This variation is well-targeted, based on evidence.

National and international evidence shows clearly that supply reduction is the most effective strategy with problematic substances such as alcohol. The proposed variations address both supply and the risks to community of the behaviour of problem drinkers.

The BDR system and infrastructure are already in existence, and in use in alcohol take away outlets. It has always been anomalous and perplexing that people on the BDR can still go to pubs and clubs and drink as much as they wish.

Good to see some attention being paid to community safety over the perceived “rights” of drinkers to create mayhem and threaten the safety of others. The proposed variations are very specifically targeted and timed for maximum effect at times of the highest risk.