

Rev Basil Schild

Yirara College Chaplain

Mparntwe-Alice Springs

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10th December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

1. I accept the invitation extended by the Northern Territory Liquor Commission to submit a response to the 20th November 2025 Notice of Proposed Variation of Licence Conditions.
2. I have worked as Religious Chaplain with Indigenous Families in the Northern Territory for 28 years – 22 years in Alice Springs, 6 in Darwin. I am a father of two young children. I am also a musician and for many years performed in a number of the venues referred to in the Notice. I've seen them from the inside and the outside.
3. I write in full support of all the recommendations the Liquor Commission is making.
4. On Thursday 1st June 2023, I picked up my children (daughter then aged 9, son then aged 7) from school and drove to the carpark outside the Alice Plaza, opposite the Cinema to purchase an icecream from within the Alice Plaza.

As we started to exit our vehicle we became aware of yelling and screaming outside the Todd Tavern. My children were terrified to witness the unfolding fight that resulted in the murder of a young aboriginal man just after 3pm. They asked to get back in our vehicle. We waited inside our vehicle while the fight escalated. I tried to call the police, hoping the Todd Tavern staff were also doing so. Finally Ambulance and Police arrived. I took that chance to usher my children into the Alice Plaza.

After 20 minutes we exited the plaza to see a man and a woman lying on the ground. My children heard wailing. They know it to be a cultural expression of mourning in response to death. They knew then that someone had been killed in the fight they had just witnessed. It was 3pm. On a schoolday. In the heart of our

town's retail district. I am certain I do not need to unpack the devastating impacts this has on a young child's sense of security and safety in their town.

5. The violent horrific carnage resulting from intoxicated individuals at those venues mentioned in the Notice, in broad daylight, is destroying the chance of small business and local retail to survive in Alice Springs.
6. The recommendations of the Liquor Commission are a step in the right direction. But if the Northern Territory Government is committed to the economic and social wellbeing of Alice Springs it ought to not only support the recommendations of the Liquor Commission, but ask it to go further and extend the Banned Drinkers Register to be enforced at every venue for full trading hours. Not to do so is to make mockery of the Banned Drinkers Register. Not to do so is like going out to fight a fire but choosing to leave the fire-truck back at the station.
7. How can it be possible that alcohol can be legally sold to individuals on the Banned Drinkers Register. Is that not illegal? Ought not every licensee who has sold alcohol to individuals on the Banned Drinkers Register have their License removed? What is going on here?
8. Is the Banned Drinkers Register a banned drinkers register or a not-Banned Drinkers Register?
9. I am certain the Northern Territory Government understands that the carnage and violence not only undermines the economic, tourism and retail sector of the Alice Springs but is also destroying the lives of women and children suffering violent assault. But this happens not just in the middle of the afternoon between Wednesday and Friday, but across every single day of the week, especially in the evenings.
10. The Northern Territory Government must give its full support to the application of onsite screening for BDR, not just before 3pm Wednesday to Friday, but fulltime application across all the hours alcohol is traded. Not to do so is a failure of the Government's duty of care to the long-suffering community of Mparntwe-Alice Springs, to its traumatised children and teenagers, to its wrecked retail sector, to its collapsing tourism and hospitality industries.
11. It ought not be the case that the only profitable retail left surviving in Central Australia ends up being either a hotel or a funeral parlour.

12. If the Northern Territory Government is committed to the future of Alice Springs it must supply all necessary resources – both financial and practical – for each of the recommendations of the Liquor Commission to be activated.
13. If the Northern Territory Government is committed to the future of Alice Springs it must reject pressure from the licensees or their representative lobby groups to work against the recommendations.
14. If the Northern Territory Government is committed to the economic future of Alice Springs it must no longer allow Alice Springs to be held hostage to the trading practices of the licensees mentioned in the Notice.

Yours Sincerely

Rev Basil Schild
Chaplain, Yirara College
Mparntwe-Alice Springs