



Delia Lawrie
MINISTER FOR ALCOHOL POLICY

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Closing the net on problem drinkers

Minister for Alcohol Policy, Delia Lawrie, will tomorrow introduce legislation to Territory parliament expanding the NT Government's world-first alcohol reforms to further target anti-social behavior and strengthen the powers of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Tribunal (AOD).

"More than 60% of crime is alcohol-related, and the Territory Government's Enough is Enough Alcohol Reforms have already seen more than 2,100 problem drinkers put on the Banned Drinker Register and drops in alcohol-related crime in the first six months," Ms Lawrie said.

"Building on this success, the *Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012* bill gives police and the Alcohol and Other Drugs Tribunal additional tools to get problem drinkers out of public places and into rehabilitation."

"These new laws give police the power to issue an infringement notice to people drinking in a public place within two kilometres of licensed premises and causing a nuisance to other persons.

"Police will continue to have the power to tip out grog, but introducing an infringement notice that can be linked to the Banned Drinker Register increases the ability of police to target repeat offenders and direct them into treatment.

"Problem drinkers issued with these infringements three times in 12 months will be placed on the Banned Drinker's Register."

The circumstances in which problem drinkers are banned are increased by the bill, which extends the definition of 'alcohol related offence' to include persons who are summonsed (but not arrested) for an offence.

The legislation increases the power of the AOD Tribunal to force problem drinkers into rehabilitation, allowing it to make orders that a person be subject to income management, including making *ex parte* orders in the absence of the problem drinker attending the Tribunal hearing.

"This means welfare recipients on the Banned Drinker's Register can have their income managed until they complete treatment," Ms Lawrie said.

"By targeting drinking in public places, and giving the AOD more powers to force problem drinkers into rehabilitation we can reduce anti-social behaviour and turn lives around."

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