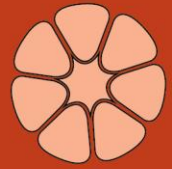




MEDIA RELEASE

Michael Gunner

SHADOW MINISTER FOR ALCOHOL POLICY



4 December 2013

ACTION NEEDED ON ALCOHOL CRISIS

Shadow Minister for Alcohol Policy, Michael Gunner, said today that alcohol abuse and violence levels are at crisis levels across the Northern Territory.

"Cities and communities across the Territory are dealing with a surge in alcohol violence and dysfunction," Mr Gunner said.

"Families, businesses and residents are bearing the brunt of the CLP's failure to deal with drunks."

Examples of the crisis include:

- No sign of the Alice Springs Alcohol Management Plan that was promised by December. Stakeholders have not even been consulted;
- In Tennant Creek, domestic violence has increased by 47 per cent;
- In Katherine violent assaults are up 20 per cent;
- Darwin is experiencing stabbing and bashing deaths and violent assaults up by 15 per cent;
- The first experience many tourists have to Darwin is the alcohol driven carnage at the Transit Centre. Property owners, bus companies and hotels are screaming out for action; and
- The doctor in charge of mandatory rehabilitation says it isn't working and has quit.

"About the only place in the Territory not subjected to skyrocketing rates of violence in Nhulunbuy, where they still have the BDR," Mr Gunner said.

"The CLP's alcohol policies are a tragic epic fail.

"The experts are saying the CLP Government's alcohol policy isn't working, we have local businesses saying it's not working and the government's own crime statistics are up, proving their approach to alcohol just isn't working.

"It is clear. If you are not controlling alcohol at the point of sale then the violence will continue.

"This is a crisis and the Government should immediately agree to a parliamentary committee to look at the evidence based solutions."

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