

PRESS RELEASE – 14 MAY 2007

The Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Mr Tony Fitzgerald, is concerned about recent newspaper reports regarding the exclusion of patrons with physical disabilities from Darwin night clubs because they appear to be intoxicated.

“Complaints by physically impaired, but sober and well-behaved drinkers about exclusion from Darwin nightclubs are easily resolved” he said, inviting people who have received unfair treatment to contact the Anti-Discrimination Commission.

“We all know that intoxicated persons may be lawfully excluded from premises, but hotel and nightclub staff may benefit from training to raise awareness of disability issues and to assist them to focus on the abilities rather than the disabilities of people with special needs” said Mr Fitzgerald.

The Commissioner believes that most Territorians are aware that the unfair treatment of people based on disability is against the law, and that the Anti-Discrimination Commission is empowered to deal with any complaints they might make.

“However”, the Commissioner said, “the Anti-Discrimination Commission also has an educative role in the community.” This includes providing advice and training to the proprietors and staff of Territory clubs and bars on how to avoid the unfair treatment of people with disabilities.

The Anti-Discrimination Commission can be contacted by phone on 1800 813 846. More information is available online at www.adc.nt.gov.au.