



## Licensing, Regulation and Alcohol Strategy

# Overview of the Northern Territory *Liquor Act* amendments

The Northern Territory Parliament passed a number of amendments to the *Liquor Act* aimed at reducing alcohol related violence and minors using fake ID to access alcohol or enter licensed premises. This fact sheet provides an overview of the amendments.

### Minors and fake or false identification

It is now an offence to:

- provide false or altered ID to a minor, knowing that the minor will illegally use the identification to enter licensed premises or purchase alcohol;
- give ID to a minor, where it is known or suspected, that the ID will be used by a minor;
- alter, deface or interfere with a genuine form of identification in an attempt to misrepresent age.

A fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to six months for the first offence and \$2,000 fine or imprisonment for 12 months for second and subsequent offences may apply.

### Seizure of fake and false identification

Staff employed at any venue where alcohol is sold is now required by law to seize ID that they suspect as being fake or false.

When the ID is seized, the person will be given a card explaining why the ID has been seized and who to call if they have any questions. The venue will then forward the ID to the Director of Licensing who will consider whether charges will be laid.

If the seized ID is found to be genuine, it will be returned to the holder unless it is required as evidence. Fake ID will not be returned and will be destroyed, used for training purposes or retained as evidence.

# Licensing, Regulation and Alcohol Strategy

## Designated Areas, Banning Notices and Exclusion Orders

To reduce alcohol related violence around licensed premises, the Minister now has the power to declare an area of land a “designated area”. For example Mitchell Street in Darwin or Todd Mall in Alice Springs. This could occur where there has been a high level of alcohol related violence in a public place within the vicinity of licensed premises.

Once an area has been designated, banning notices may be issued by police if someone has committed, or is likely to commit, a specified offence in the designated area. Specified offences range from failing to leave licensed premises to serious assault.

The police officer issuing the notice will specify whether the ban is just for the licensed premises within the area or for the whole of the designated area and how long the ban lasts, up to 48 hours. The officer will also provide a map of the area so that the person knows where the area boundaries commence.

If banned from the whole area, the person may only enter if they work or live in the area. This means the person issued with the banning notice cannot go to any licensed premises, other business; or shops within the designated area or even visit friends who may live within that area.

If a person commits a serious specified offence, or has received a number of banning notices for the same area, the Courts may issue an exclusion order.

An exclusion order works similar to a banning notice in that (generally) a person cannot enter the designated area, however it will be for a longer period of time, possibly up to 12 months.

## Liquor Accords

A Liquor Accord is a group of interested parties working together to reduce issues associated with excess alcohol consumption. Members focus on strategies to reduce alcohol related violence and antisocial behaviour. Some of the strategies may include restricting certain types of drinks at licensed premises who are part of the accord or if someone causes trouble at one venue, that person may not be able to enter other licensed premises within the accord area.

**Patrons returning to premises after directed to leave:** It is now an offence for a person to re-enter or attempt to re-enter licensed premises once they have been removed from them. Police can now issue an infringement notice to the offender.

**Police direction for person to leave licensed premises:** Police now have the power to direct patrons to leave licensed premises, where they are intoxicated, violent, quarrelsome, disorderly or incapable of controlling their behaviour. Previously this could only be done by the licensee.

## LICENSING, REGULATION AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY

### Darwin

Level 1, Enterprise House  
28-30 Knuckey Street, Darwin  
GPO Box 1154, Darwin, NT 0801  
Ph: 08 8999 1800  
Fax: 08 8999 1888

### Katherine

Ground Level  
16-18 Randazzo Building Katherine  
GPO Box 1154, Darwin, NT 0801  
Ph: 08 89728906  
Fax: 08 8972 8910

### Alice Springs

Level 1 Belvedere House  
Cnr Parsons & Bath Sts, Alice Springs  
GPO Box 8470, Alice Springs NT 0871  
Ph: 08 8951 5195  
Fax: 08 8951 8591

Email: [lr.doj@nt.gov.au](mailto:lr.doj@nt.gov.au) Website: [www.nt.gov.au/justice/licenreg](http://www.nt.gov.au/justice/licenreg)  
(P1)