

27 March 2026

Committee Secretariat
Legislative Scrutiny Committee
Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory
GPO Box 3721
Darwin NT 0801



Via email: LSC@nt.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

RE: LIQUOR LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FAST TRACK APPROVALS) BILL 2026 INQUIRY

Thank you for your letter dated 20 March 2026 advising of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee's inquiry into the *Liquor Legislation Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Bill 2026* and invitation for input by 27 March 2026.

Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT), as the peak body for Aboriginal community controlled health services (ACCHSs) in the NT, welcomes the opportunity to contribute and appreciates being recognised as an important stakeholder for input. AMSANT strives to deliver robust advocacy, holistic member support services and evidence-based advice to protect and uphold the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people and communities. Through high level collaborations with the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments, AMSANT continues to ensure Aboriginal voices, our member perspectives and community-driven solutions are central to informing culturally safe policy and service delivery.

Due to the extremely limited timeframe for input, AMSANT has not been able to undertake the appropriate consultation with our member services required to provide a comprehensive response. To ensure we are informed, AMSANT works closely with The Foundation for Alcohol and Education (FARE), and other AOD stakeholders across the sector. Based on this ongoing engagement, AMSANT provides the following letter of support.

AMSANT supports the positions and recommendations outlined in FARE's submission to this inquiry.

We share FARE's concern that the Bill, and the process through which it has been developed, **does not sufficiently uphold the right to health and wellbeing of communities of the NT**. As outlined in FARE's submission, this right is reflected in Australia's international obligations and requires governments to ensure the alcohol policy settings prioritise public health and harm minimisation.

AMSANT has long advocated that legislative and policy reform impacting Aboriginal people must be grounded in:

- Genuine, culturally safe consultation and co-design
- Shared decision-making with Aboriginal communities, organisations, community leaders and Aboriginal professionals with relevant expertise

- Evidence-based approaches to reducing harm

The proposed amendments, including mechanisms to fast track approvals and reduce safeguards such as community public interest considerations, risk undermining these principles.

Additional considerations

AMSANT supports FARE's submission, however it is important to highlight the following additional considerations from an ACCHS and NT jurisdictional perspective:

1. Commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap must be upheld

The Northern Territory Government has committed to the Priority Reforms under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. This includes commitments to participation in formal partnerships and shared decision-making with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations throughout the NT. Progressing legislative reform without genuine engagement with ACCHSs and Aboriginal communities is inconsistent with these commitments and undermines agreed national and jurisdictional reform obligations.

2. Protect robust public health and harm minimisation safeguards

Any changes to liquor licensing approval processes must retain robust public interest and harm minimisation mechanisms, as weakening these safeguards risks increasing alcohol-related harm. Especially in the NT context, where alcohol-related harm remains a significant contributor to disproportionate impacts on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

3. Centre community control and Aboriginal-led decision making authority

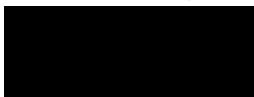
ACCHSs play a critical role in responding to alcohol-related harm and supporting community-led solutions. Legislative changes must strengthen, not bypass, community led decision-making mechanisms. This gives a voice to community members and ensures communities have authority over alcohol management approaches that genuinely reflect community priorities.

4. NT Government must align with policy commitments and evidence

The NT Government has publicly committed to reducing alcohol-related harm and improving outcomes for Aboriginal people. Legislative amendments that prioritise expedited process over evidence-based harm minimisation risk undermining these commitments and broader public health objectives.

AMSANT appreciates the opportunity to provide input and welcomes any opportunity for further meaningful engagement on this matter. If you require more information in relation to the content of this letter, please contact submissions@amsant.org.au.

Yours sincerely,



Donna Ah Chee
Chief Executive Officer
AMSANT