

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice:

Riley Alcohol Review

1. Exactly which of the 33 recommendations from the Riley Alcohol Review the Government has given “in principle support to”?
2. Please provide the list of these 33 recommendations, with an individual explanation.
3. In your press release on 27th February 2018 you said that the Government supports “in principle” 33 recommendations of the Riley Alcohol Review. What does that mean?
4. Will these 33 recommendations be implemented by the Government?
5. If not, please explain why you have decided not to implement these 33 recommendations you have provided in principle support to?
6. Please explain for each of these 33 recommendations why you support these recommendations but have decided not to implement them?
7. For these 33 recommendations what problem does the Government have with implementing them?
8. Why has the Government decided not to implement the following recommendations from the Riley Alcohol Review:

Recommendation 3.6.1:

POSIs should continue in regional centres after the commencement of the Banned Drinker Register until it can be demonstrated that they are no longer required.

Recommendation 3.6.4:

Police should continue to undertake the POSI role until licensing inspectors are employed and trained.

ANSWER:

1. See the attached table of the recommendations from the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review Final Report that the government gives in-principle support to.
2. The attached table provides an explanation of each of the 33 recommendations.

Please note, recommendation 2.5.21 is supported by the Government, but as the recommendation is entirely contingent on the 'Categories of Licences' recommendations (2.5.16, 2.5.17, 2.5.18, and 2.5.19) which are supported in-principle, for the purposes of accuracy 2.5.21 is included in the in-principle recommendations.

3. 'Supported in-principle' means the Government endorses the general concept, principle or outcome of the recommendation, but may wish to achieve the same result in a different manner to that prescribed by the recommendation.
4. Refer to response at point 3. It is possible there may be more efficient and cost effective ways of achieving these outcomes.
5. Not applicable.
6. As stated in point 4.
7. As stated previously, Government does not have any issues with the recommendations, but is open to considering options that may achieve the desired outcomes more efficiently.
8. Government supports the recommendations concerning Point of Sale Interventions. The Government has also recently announced significant investment in a new Police unit for this purpose, and has introduced legislation to amend the Liquor Act to support a long-term, sustainable policy of Point of Sale Interventions.

Table of Recommendations: NT Government position on the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review Final Report's Recommendations

Recommendations supported in-principle

No		Recommendation	Comments
1.	2.4.2	An annual risk-based licensing fee be introduced for all liquor licence categories based on the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a base fee that applies to the different categories of licence • a loading fee to reflect the patron capacity of the venue for on-premises and club licence categories • a loading fee for the takeaway licence category based on volume of sales • a loading fee for extended hours authorities • a loading fee attributed to poor compliance history. 	All licence fees (including the introduction of an annual fee) will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite, which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
2.	2.5.1	Standard Days of trade for on-premises licences be Monday to Saturday, with Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day defined as Restricted Days to which restricted hours apply (10am to 10pm).	Licence categories and conditions will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite, which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
3.	2.5.2	An automatic extension of the standard trading hours for consumption on-premises, or trading hours authorised by an extended trading authority, will apply on New Year's Eve for an additional three hours of trade, but in any event not past 4am.	Licence categories and conditions will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite, which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
4.	2.5.3	Standard Hours be established by legislation to apply to all licence categories that authorise the sale of retail alcohol for consumption on the premises. Those hours be 10 am to 11 pm Monday to Saturday, and 10 am to 10 pm on Sundays and other restricted days.	Licence categories and conditions will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite, which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
5.	2.5.4	The licence identify the hours, within the Standard Hours, in which trading will take place, making it unlawful to trade outside those hours.	Licence categories and conditions will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite, which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
6.	2.5.5	The Standard Hours may be extended by applying for and being granted an extended hours trading authority.	Licence categories and conditions will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite, which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
7.	2.5.10	Standard Hours for all takeaway liquor outlets be provided in the Liquor Act to be no earlier than 10 am and no later than 10 pm Monday to Saturday.	Licence categories and conditions will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
8.	2.5.11	The takeaway licence must identify the actual hours within the Standard Hours in which takeaway trading will take place, making it unlawful to trade outside those hours.	Licence categories and conditions will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.

Table of Recommendations: NT Government position on the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review Final Report's Recommendations

Recommendations supported in-principle

No		Recommendation	Comments
9.	2.5.13	Takeaway liquor only be permitted to be sold from a stand-alone business in which the primary focus of the business is the sale of alcohol.	Licence categories and conditions will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
10.	2.5.16	The following categories or licences be established: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-premises Liquor Licence • Club Licence • Takeaway Liquor Licence • Restaurant and Catering Licence • Liquor Producer Licence • Major Event Licence • Limited Licence • BYO Licence • Interstate Supplier Licence 	Licence categories and conditions will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
11.	2.5.17	Transitional arrangements ensure that licensees are subject to annual risk based licence fees during the transitional period.	All licence fees (including the introduction of an annual fee) will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
12.	2.5.18	A condition be imposed on all extended hours authorities, prohibiting the sale of beverages with a high alcohol content (>5 per cent), and rapid consumption beverages such as shots.	Licence categories and conditions will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
13.	2.5.19	Store licences transitioning to takeaway licences be subject to a condition restricting liquor sales to 15 per cent of the gross annual sales of the business, and a seven year sunset period in which time the licensee obtains a takeaway licence and the transitional licence will cease to operate.	Licence categories and conditions will be considered as part of the <i>Liquor Act</i> rewrite which is an important part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
14.	2.5.21	An independent review be undertaken on the effectiveness of the categories at five years from commencement and further modification of categories be considered where necessary.	High quality research, data and evaluations are crucial to informing the NT Government's efforts to reduce alcohol related harms.
15.	2.7.8	Licensing be sufficiently resourced to regularly undertake covert 'mystery shopper' programs, similar to those used in Queensland.	To be considered by Licensing NT and Police when developing their compliance and enforcement plan (refer to comments at recommendation 2.7.6).
16.	2.8.5	Specific compliance and enforcement activity relating to RSA, such as the 'mystery shopper' program, be introduced and administered by the licensing authority.	To be considered by Licensing NT and Police when developing their compliance and enforcement plan (refer to recommendation 2.7.6).

Table of Recommendations: NT Government position on the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review Final Report's Recommendations

Recommendations supported in-principle

No		Recommendation	Comments
17.	3.2.3	The impact of the introduction of a minimum unit price be rigorously evaluated after three years on its impact on consumption and alcohol related harms.	High quality research, data and evaluations are crucial to informing the NT Government's efforts to reduce alcohol related harms. If deemed necessary, this requirement will be incorporated into the new <i>Liquor Act</i> .
18.	3.7.2	The Northern Territory Government prioritise funding for early intervention services for FASD, including paediatric diagnosis, psychotherapy and other behavioural management measures, and early childhood support and education services.	To be delivered as part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019. The Commonwealth Government through the NDIS has a significant role to play insofar as funding services for FASD.
19.	3.7.12	A FASD support service be established in the Department of Health to provide case management for FASD individuals and their carers through an appointed social worker.	To be considered as part of the development of an NT FASD Strategy to be developed in line with the National FASD Strategy. Funding will be provided through NDIS for short-term early intervention supports for individuals, to stabilise and prevent them from requiring lifetime funded supports. The NDIS has commenced and is currently being progressively rolled out. It is expected to be available right across the NT from 1 July 2019.
20.	3.7.13	Additional funding be allocated to the development of more residential secure care facilities for the delivery of behavioural management programs to the cognitively impaired, including FASD individuals.	To be considered as part of the development of an NT FASD Strategy to be developed in line with the National FASD Strategy.
21.	3.7.14	Community based health organisations and social service providers be funded to provide evidence based behavioural management programs for FASD individuals. The programs should be linked to the FASD support service.	To be considered as part of the development of an NT FASD Strategy to be developed in line with the National FASD Strategy.
22.	3.7.26	The Department of Health commission a prevalence study, using both antenatal and postnatal screening, to accurately assess the extent of FASD across the Northern Territory.	To be considered as part of the development of an NT FASD Strategy, to be developed in line with the National FASD Strategy.

Table of Recommendations: NT Government position on the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review Final Report's Recommendations

Recommendations supported in-principle

No		Recommendation	Comments
23.	3.9.4	The Department of Housing and Community Development work towards increasing the number of PHSOs to enable the permanent presence of this workforce in regions where there is an identified need.	The Department of Housing and Community Development will investigate the demand for permanent Public Housing Safety Officers (PHSOs) in regions.
24.	4.1.9	Treatment programs have funding certainty for seven years (ten years in remote communities).	The NT Government is committed to providing secure long term funding agreements to key NGOs. The NT Government commitment for funding with NGOs is to enter into five year agreements where appropriate. The Department of Health will examine the feasibility of entering into such long term arrangements.
25.	4.2.1	An Alcohol and Other Drugs Court (along the lines of the former SMART Court) be established with emphasis upon diversion and treatment. The operation of the new court be modified in light of the experience with the SMART Court and with the operation of similar courts in other jurisdictions.	The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice will consider how this recommendation can be delivered.
26.	4.2.2	The former CREDIT/Bail diversion program for alcohol and drug related offending be considered in conjunction with the establishment of the court and adopted in such modified form as is appropriate to the circumstances.	The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice will consider how this recommendation can be delivered.
27.	4.2.3	The court be subject to an evidence-based assessment after it has been in operation for a sufficient period to evaluate its worth.	The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice will consider how this recommendation can be delivered.
28.	4.2.5	To increase the efficiency of the SMART court consideration be given to combining the function with mental health court liaison services.	The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice will consider how this recommendation can be delivered.
29.	4.3.1	The Northern Territory Government, in consultation with the affected communities, reviews identified 'drinking spots' throughout the Territory and, where appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. relocate the drinking spot away from major roadways ii. reduce speed limits near known drinking spots iii. provide appropriate signage, to be developed in conjunction with communities and Aboriginal organisations, to warn road users of the existence of such spots iv. where practical provide water and shelter and adequate lighting to provide greater visibility of people or obstacles v. ensure, where practical, regular patrols by Police Officers and/or community night patrols are undertaken at known drinking spots 	To be considered as part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
30.	4.3.2	The Northern Territory Government establish a working group to review strategies and initiatives to improve the safety of drinking spots in the Northern Territory.	To be considered as part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
31.	4.4.1	A residential managed alcohol program be trialled in an appropriate location in the Northern Territory.	To be considered as part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.

Table of Recommendations: NT Government position on the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review Final Report's Recommendations

Recommendations supported in-principle

No		Recommendation	Comments
32.	4.4.2	A comprehensive and independent evaluation of the trial be conducted, to measure its effectiveness in reducing alcohol related harms.	To be considered as part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-2019.
33.	4.5.6	SUSs [sobering-up shelters] should have funding certainty for seven years (10 years in remote communities).	<p>The NT Government is committed to providing secure long term funding agreements to key NGOs.</p> <p>The NT Government commitment for funding with NGOs is to enter into five year agreements where appropriate. The Department of Health will examine the feasibility of entering into such long term arrangements.</p>