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# MEDIA RELEASE

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON A NORTHERN TERRITORY HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY FOR ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOURS

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19 September 2018

### PUBLIC FORUM IN DARWIN

The Select Committee on a Northern Territory Harm Reduction Strategy for Addictive Behaviours is holding a public forum in Darwin on **Thursday 27 September 2018**.

“The Northern Territory has higher rates of cannabis use, tobacco consumption and alcohol risk than any other state or territory in Australia and this is causing an unacceptable level of harm in our communities, it is time we turned this around,” the Chair of the Committee, Mr Jeff Collins MLA said.

“The public forum will give community members an opportunity to speak directly to the Committee about their concerns and the steps needed to reduce the harms from addictive behaviours. We encourage all interested members of the community to come to the forum and share their views and experiences.

“Addictive behaviours, particularly those related to illicit drugs, alcohol and gambling, have a terrible impact on individuals, families and communities. If we are to reduce these impacts we need to understand the issues from both an individual and community perspective”, Mr Collins said.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory set up the Select Committee to look into the extent and effectiveness of current harm reduction practices and treatment programmes in the NT and to identify actions the Government can take to improve these.

This public forum is the first of a series of public forums and hearings that the Committee will be holding across the Territory over the next few months. A provisional programme can be accessed here: [https://parliament.nt.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/568571/Provisional-program-of-public-hearings-and-forums-RAB-2018.pdf](https://parliament.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/568571/Provisional-program-of-public-hearings-and-forums-RAB-2018.pdf)

Darwin Public Forum: 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm, Thursday 27 September 2018, Litchfield Room, Level 3, Parliament House

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**For comment contact:**

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