

Dr Jennifer Buckley
Committee Secretary
The Social Policy Scrutiny Committee

Email: EPSC@nt.gov.au

Dear Committee,

INQUIRY INTO THE LIQUOR BILL 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee on these reforms.

The Commission does not intend to comment on the overarching scheme contemplated by this Bill as alcohol regulation policy is outside our expertise and beyond our resourcing capacity. We write to respond to 3 specific components in the Bill.

1. We acknowledge and support endeavours to improve the balance in the use of search and seizure powers in Part 10. In particular, we support creating some restraint on otherwise extensive and potentially invasive powers as well as improving processes to identify and notify owners of seized vehicles. The latter change acknowledges the potential unintended consequences and disproportionate impact relative to the offending, that the seizure of vehicles can have on remote communities.
2. In regard to point of sale interventions, while powers for officers in relation to this scheme are now largely settled, the focus now needs to turn to ensuring that these powers are being used respectfully. We continue to hear stories about disrespectful treatment by officers towards customers, particularly Aboriginal customers. It is important for the scheme to achieve its policy objectives that contact between the police and the broader community is conducted in a

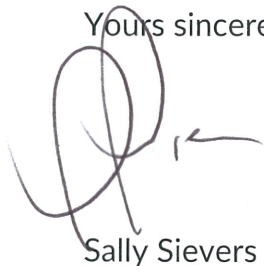
responsible manner.

3. Lastly, we raise concern about powers provided to the Director of Licensing under Clause 227 to direct a licensee to limit or restrict the responsibilities and activities of an employee who has been charged or found guilty of an offence involving violence or unlawful drugs. This power may remove a right an employee has to not be discriminated against on the basis of an irrelevant criminal record at work. The particular concern is that action can be taken when they are charged. This fails to contemplate that they may not ultimately be found guilty or that the charge for other reasons may not proceed.

We submit that this power should be narrower and be subject to rights an employee would have under the *Anti-Discrimination Act*.

We thank you for an opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sally Sievers', with a small arrow pointing to the right from the end of the signature.

Anti-Discrimination Commissioner
Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commission

14 June 2019