



HEALTH

ALCOHOL + OTHER DRUGS

OVERVIEW

The Country Liberals are committed to ensuring that treatment and care options to reduce harm from alcohol and other drugs for all Territorians is met.

The Country Liberals will continue to work hard to minimise the impact of violence and other crimes in communities and households relating to the use of alcohol and other drugs.

CHALLENGE

Under Labor, alcohol consumption grew to record levels and the rates of public drunkenness increased to a level where Territorians were afraid to venture out in local towns after dark.

The Banned Drinkers Register was an epic failure and made life difficult for the majority in an attempt to tackle alcohol problems for the few.

The Country Liberals increased safety in our streets with the introduction of Alcohol Protection Orders, Temporary Beat Locations and Alcohol Mandatory Treatment throughout the Territory as well as the introduction of CCTV in hot spots of major towns.

In addition, there has been a drastic reduction in alcohol consumption.

Labor's policy to re-instate the Banned Drinkers Register and remove police from bottleshops in regional areas of the Territory will return us to the bad old days with an increase in alcohol-fuelled violence and crime.



COMMITMENTS

A re-elected Country Liberals Government will:

- **NOT** re-introduce the Banned Drinkers Register
- bolster and streamline the *Alcohol Mandatory Treatment (AMT)* program to increase the number of people receiving treatment and decrease the antisocial behaviour and prioritise requests for interpreters
- consider increasing the number of beds in AMTs and encourage more voluntary admissions by making under-utilised beds available
- consider expanding after-care programs to maintain the benefit of AMT beyond discharge if people wish to continue treatment
- investigate the need for a new Sobering Up Shelter (SuS) in Palmerston
- introduce a policy of three admissions to SuS resulting in an automatic assessment for AMT
- provide professional development for Nursing and Indigenous Health Practitioners in remote and primary health centres to ensure they have the skills to provide on-site treatment for alcohol and substance abuse
- ensure that Territorians with acute substance abuse issues have greater access to crisis assessment and management
- ensure remote Territorians benefit from the increased access to alcohol and other drugs services that results from specialist health professionals located in remote communities
- review the services provided in the community for people experiencing acute episodes of substance abuse to assist in reducing crisis presentations hospital emergency departments
- ensure that Territorians have access to alcohol and other drugs treatment services to assist them to overcome their addiction
- provide \$30,000 for a consultancy to establish the need for a cultural healing centre and an alcohol and other drugs facility at Bathurst Island.
- employ 105 additional Police Auxiliary officers to enhance community safety, including attendance at bottleshops
- continue to provide police with resources such as *Alcohol Protection Orders* to deal with people who commit crimes while affected by alcohol
- retain *Temporary Beat Locations* across the Territory as an ongoing effort to reduce antisocial behaviour in regional centres and reduce hospital admissions

PLAN. GROWTH. LIFESTYLE.

see more at countryliberals.org.au

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COUNTRY LIBERALS
THE TERRITORY PARTY



ALCOHOL + OTHER DRUGS

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Introduced a range of measures, including Alcohol Protection Orders, Temporary Beat Locations and Alcohol Mandatory Treatment that have seen a decrease in emergency admissions and significant reductions in alcohol-related crime
- The *Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act* commenced in July 2013 as part of an overall harm reduction strategy to direct problem drinkers who are either unlikely or unable to voluntarily access treatment options.
- Introduced the *Tackling Ice in the Northern Territory* campaign to address the problems associated with the drug ice.
- Passed new Tobacco Control Legislation to ban smoking in cars carrying children under the age of 16.
- Established new volatile substances management plans for four substances which will limit the sale of volatile fuels. There are now a total of 22 sites across the NT with volatile substances management plans in place in addition to the designated Low Aromatic Fuel (LAF) areas declared in Katherine and Tennant Creek regions. This initiative reduces the potential for volatile substance abuse
- Assisted Aboriginal communities and organisations to reduce the high smoking rate in the indigenous population through a dedicated program area within the Northern Territory Department of Health:
- Developed a range of culturally appropriate education and information material to be used by community based workers in over 30 communities throughout the Territory to assist people to quit smoking.

BUDGET SNAPSHOT 16/17

\$185.9m to revolutionise health care delivery through technology modernisation including the introduction of real-time individual electronic health records

\$28.4m invested for Alcohol Mandatory Treatment reform programs including rehabilitation centres throughout the Territory.

\$71.5m invested for alcohol and other drugs services

Alcohol Mandatory Treatment \$100m

invested in establishing and operating the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment program. \$45 million investment in establishing treatment facilities and over \$50 million in running the program.



KEY POINTS

- The Country Liberals have a proven track record of putting strategies and actions in place which are reducing alcohol and substance abuse resulting in a lowering of violence and other crimes and less hospital admissions.
- The Territory can't afford to go back to Labor's reactive and uncoordinated approach which saw a rise in alcohol and substance abuse along with rising incidents of violence and crime in our communities.

PLAN. GROWTH. LIFESTYLE.

see more at countryliberals.org.au

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