



Media Release – 08.08.19

Danila Dilba notes promising reduction in alcohol related harm in the NT

Danila Dilba Health Services (DDHS) welcomes promising early evidence that alcohol related harm in the NT is being reduced since the introduction of a range of alcohol reforms including the Banned Drinkers Register, the Minimum Floor Price and other point of sale interventions.

DDHS CEO Olga Havnen said that the significant drop in alcohol related domestic violence and assaults is promising and suggests that reforms are having an impact.

Crime statistics released by the NT Government this week reveal the largest reduction in alcohol related violence in the last ten years. In the year ending 31 May 2019, there was a 21.2 per cent decrease in alcohol related assaults in the NT compared to the previous year.

Reductions in domestic violence (10.6 per cent) and sexual assault (11.6 per cent) were also recorded. The most dramatic shift was a 37 per cent reduction in alcohol related violence in Alice Springs.

The NT has the highest per capita rates of alcohol consumption in Australia and with it, very high social and economic costs. A recent study by the Menzies School of Health Research found that the tangible and intangible costs of alcohol consumption in the NT costs us up to \$1.3 billion per year or more than \$7,500 per adult per year.

“While these early figures are encouraging, we expect that the NT Government will continue to implement its reform agenda, guided by the Riley review” says Ms Havnen.

“The new Liquor Act coming before the Assembly this week provides the platform for further reforms and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of reforms will be critical.”

“These reductions in significant alcohol-related harm should also be taken into consideration by the NT Liquor Commission when making its decision on the Dan Murphy’s application” said Ms Havnen.

“It would be unfortunate to see any of the gains undone by potential harm from a new big box outlet located close to vulnerable populations.”