

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

3.18 The committee recommends that the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011 be amended to allow infringement notices to be issued in relation to minor alcohol offences and to make it clear that infringement notices may be issued relating to the possession and supply of liquor.

Recommendation 2

3.27 The committee recommends that processes be implemented to ensure that the Minister responds to alcohol management plan applications in a timely manner.

Recommendation 3

3.50 The committee recommends section 23 (1)(eb) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* be amended to remove the text "at the Land Councils expense".

Recommendation 4

3.94 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth include in its engagement program with remote NT communities going forward a specific component designed to build understanding of customary law provisions and support for this measure and in particular to clear up misunderstandings that have arisen.

Recommendation 5

3.95 The committee also recommends that the measure and its level of understanding in communities be reviewed in 5 years time as part of the review and evaluation of the proposed National Partnership agreement.

Recommendation 6

3.129 The committee recommends that the government amend the Social Security Legislation Amendment Bill to require that only agencies that have in place appropriate internal and external review and appeal processes be approved by the Minister to make income management referrals.

Recommendation 7

3.147 The committee recommends the Commonwealth and NT governments provide greater clarity regarding SEAM and the *Every Child, Every Day* measures, how they interact and will operate in parallel together. Further education needs to be provided to communities where these policy changes will

apply in the Northern Territory as of 1 July 2012 and advice provided by both governments must be clear as to what policy applies in different areas throughout the Northern Territory.

Recommendation 8

3.153 The committee recommends the SEAM 2012 evaluation, and any other material monitoring the effectiveness of SEAM and the *Every Child, Every Day* initiative, be made publicly available as soon as possible following its completion. Timing of the evaluation's release is particularly important given the inappropriate delay in releasing the 2010 evaluation of SEAM.

Recommendation 9

4.9 The committee recommends governments work closely with the Australian Human Rights Commission to build a culturally competent workforce.

Recommendation 10

4.17 The committee recommends that when conducting further consultation in relation to Stronger Futures the Commonwealth government:

- work with the framework provided by the Australian Human Rights Commission for meaningful and effective consultation processes that are culturally safe, secure and appropriate; and
- give consideration to the effective use of Land Councils in consultation processes given their knowledge and expertise in consulting appropriately with communities.

Recommendation 11

4.25 The committee recommends that in addition to the reviews of the legislation already announced, the Commonwealth also ensure that any National Partnership Agreement is the subject of an independent and public review and evaluation after 5 years.