

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 233

Topic: Alcohol in the Northern Territory

Hansard Page: 3 June 2011, CA 64

Senator Siewert asked:

Is the Commonwealth considering any further measures for Alice Springs in relation to alcohol consumption and alcohol related harm between now and when the NTER finishes next year?

Answer: Yes.

The '*Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Discussion Paper*' explores future directions in relation to tackling alcohol abuse and as part of consultations will be seeking community views on what can be done to tackle alcohol abuse.

The Commonwealth Government has provided funding for the recent alcohol reforms announced by the Northern Territory Government, including the introduction of a Banned Drinkers Register that will target all problem drinkers and provide improved opportunities for treatment and rehabilitation programs for those requiring such assistance.

The Commonwealth Government has provided funding of \$1.5 million to the Northern Territory Government for the strategic buy-back of three take away liquor licences in Alice Springs, of which two have been successfully surrendered and one currently under negotiation.

Funding has been provided to the Northern Territory Government to support the development of community driven Alcohol Management Plans in Alice Springs Town Camps, to support measures which address alcohol related harm. A Senior Community Worker is soon to be recruited to support Alice Springs town camp residents on the development of regeneration plans for strengthening community.

Funding has been provided for street lighting in hotspots in the central business district of Alice Springs to deter antisocial behaviour; the buyback of two liquor licences to reduce takeaway supply; and for the *Safe and Sober Program* which provides ambulatory case management for clients with a multitude of health and social issues.