



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DRUG AND ALCOHOL COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

INFLUENCES OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND RELATED HARM IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

The National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) welcomes the release today by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) of the report, *A Longitudinal Study of Influence on Alcohol Consumption and Related Harm in Central Australia: with a particular emphasis on the role of price.*

The report compiled by the National Drug Research Institute highlights a number of important findings from the longitudinal study undertaken in Central Australia. These include:

- the restrictions introduced in Central Australia have been effective in reducing alcohol consumption;
- the restrictions that have had the most impact are those that are related to price – i.e. the removal of the lowest priced beverages (cask table and fortified wine) from the market;
- these restrictions have led to a reduction in hospital admissions for all alcohol-related condition but especially for assaults and a reduction in emergency department presentations coded as ‘assault’ at triage; and
- continuing high rates of consumption indicate that restrictions should be continued and be implemented in conjunction with demand reduction strategies.

The report aimed to examine the impact of various alcohol control measures on levels of alcohol consumption and related harms in Central Australia for the period 2000 – 2010 and looked to:

- describe trends in alcohol consumption in Central Australia;
- describe trends in key indicators of alcohol-related harm;
- describe key interventions aimed at reducing alcohol-related harm;
- identify any changes in consumption and indicators of harm and to test whether, or to what extent, these can be attributed to particularly interventions or combinations of them; and
- report on the implications for alcohol policy and strategies to reduce alcohol related harm.

NIDAC urges the NT and Federal Government to incorporate the findings from this report when developing and implementing policy and programs to return drinking among Aboriginal Territorians to healthy and safe levels.

The report can be accessed from the FaHCSIA website at: www.fahcsia.gov.au/node/17093

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