



# *Alcohol Policing Strategy* 2010–2012



Keeping People Safe

# Commissioner's Message



## **I am pleased to present the Northern Territory Alcohol Policing Strategy.**

We are all aware alcohol consumption in the Northern Territory is an issue of great concern to us as police and to the community.

The Northern Territory Alcohol Policing Strategy demonstrates our commitment to keeping people safe by working to minimise alcohol related crime and harm to individuals and to our community.

Northern Territory Statistics show a large percentage of incidents attended by police directly relate to excessive consumption of alcohol. These incidents range from traffic crashes, drink driving, sexual offences, property crime, family violence and social disorder.

This strategy will assist police and the community by providing a clear direction on the importance of effectively dealing with alcohol consumption and related harms in the Northern Territory.

We are committed to working in collaboration with government and non government agencies, the community and the Australian Hotels Association (NT) to implement strategies which promote responsible service of alcohol, ensuring licensed premises comply with licence conditions, reducing criminal offences and incidents of drink driving.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McRoberts'.

John McRoberts APM  
Commissioner of Police,  
CEO, Fire and Emergency Services.

## Why does Northern Territory need an Alcohol Policing Strategy?

The National Alcohol Strategy 2006-2011 was developed as a response to the patterns of high risk alcohol consumption that are prevalent in Australia. It is estimated that about 3,200 people die as a result of excessive alcohol consumption and around 81,000 people are hospitalised annually.

Accordingly, alcohol issues are recognised across Australia as the most significant drug related problem requiring attention by all government organisations.

Alcohol intoxication is commonly associated with crime and anti-social behaviour. Such behaviours erode public confidence in community safety and security. In the Northern Territory the impact of incidents where alcohol is a factor extends beyond the victim, to witnesses of the behaviour and, through media reports, to the general public. Dealing with alcohol intoxication is a focus of our day to day frontline members and makes our job of effectively policing our community more difficult.

The Northern Territory data speaks for itself:

- 74% of all fatal crashes (2009) were alcohol related
- 55,773 people were taken into protective custody for the 2008–2009 financial year
- 96% of homicide related offences were associated with alcohol in the 2008-2009 financial year
- 52% of family violence incidents involved alcohol
- 36% of reported incidents requiring police attendance were alcohol related.

## Objectives

The objectives of the Northern Territory Alcohol Policing Strategy are to:

- increase the community's sense of safety and security
- reduce the incidence of alcohol-related crime
- increase compliance with the *Liquor Act* and associated legislation.

The Northern Territory Alcohol Policing Strategy complements the Northern Territory's 2030 Strategy which represents a comprehensive whole-of-government approach to the future. The 2030 Strategy pursues targets to ensure the general public feel safe.

The Northern Territory Alcohol Policing Strategy links with the Social Order Crime Reduction Strategy, Road Safety Strategy, Violent Crime Reduction Strategy and other agency-wide policies.

## Focus

- Keeping people safe by reducing alcohol related crime.
- Promotion of responsible sale and service of alcohol products.
- A high visibility policing presence around licensed premises, at entertainment events and in public places.
- Giving road safety policing a higher profile.
- Collaboration with other government agencies, non-government organisations and community groups to reduce alcohol-related harm.

## How is this going to be achieved?

Within Northern Territory Police, Regional Commands in particular are accountable for enforcement of legislation, adherence to policy including the Northern Territory Alcohol Policing Strategy.

Regional Commands will be responsible for the implementation of local action plans that address local issues based on the Northern Territory Alcohol Policing Strategy.

Frontline involvement in meeting the objective and priorities of this strategy is the key to our success.

## Our Priorities

### Keeping People Safe

Provide high visibility policing in and around licensed premises, public places and at major events.

Support the implementation of measures designed to reduce the incidence of alcohol-related violence and promote safety in public places.

Prevent the escalation of alcohol fuelled violence through early intervention.

**Aim: Enhance a safer community.**

### Liquor Licensing

There will be a focus on problematic outlets and licensees with support being provided to local alcohol management plans and accords as well as alcohol related community education initiatives.

Advocacy for stronger license conditions for licensed outlets and public events.

Target licensed premises to ensure compliance with legislative requirement in regard to underage drinkers.

**Aim: Increase awareness of unsafe and illegal alcohol supply practices and to increase licensed premises' compliance with legislative responsibilities.**

### Alcohol and Youth

Partner with other stakeholders to educate youth in our community.

Build positive relationships with youth in local communities.

Reduce underage drinking and binge drinking during events.

Enforce legislation in relation to the drinking in public areas and sale of alcohol to underage persons.

**Aim: Reduce the incidence of under-age drinking and binge drinking.**



Targeted enforcement activity during times of high alcohol consumption and at locations identified as “hot spots”.



### **Rural and Remote Communities**

Work with communities to develop local plans to restrict the unlawful supply of alcohol and address alcohol related harm.

Target the incidence of “grog running”.

**Aim: Reduce the incidence of alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour in rural and remote communities.**

### **Road Safety**

Targeted enforcement activity during times of high alcohol consumption and at locations identified as “hot spots” for drink drivers through the use of “intelligence”.

Use education and public information to bring about changes in attitudes and behaviours towards drink driving.

**Aim: Reduce alcohol related road crashes and incidence of drink driving.**

### **Build our capacity to respond to alcohol-related crime**

Monitor and review existing policy and legislation to ensure frontline members have the necessary tools and powers to address alcohol-related crime.

Review existing local alcohol policing strategies to enable the most effective use of resources.

Promote the use of intelligence based analysis tools to identify trends in offending and offences.

Educate and inform frontline members about current alcohol-related issues.

**Aim: Reduce crime and incidents related to excessive alcohol consumption.**

### **Territory and National Alcohol Strategies**

Northern Territory police be actively involved in the formulation of Territory and National Alcohol Strategies.

Using our expertise and solutions to inform and support the Northern Territory Government’s 2030 Strategy.

To pursue the targets relating to a safer community and the improved management of alcohol consumption.

Collaborate with the Federal Government and other states and territories to support the outcomes of the Ministerial Council on Drugs.

Through the Northern Territory Alcohol Policing Strategy we will draw on Northern Territory expertise and adapt effective solutions from elsewhere.

**Aim: Contribute to the achievement of outcomes of Territory and National alcohol and drug strategies.**

