

## **A historical overview of alcohol-focused legislative interventions in the Northern Territory of Australia: 1979-2020**

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**Introduction / Issues:** Since at least the 1980s the per capita alcohol consumption and related harms in the Northern Territory (NT) have well exceeded the rest of Australia. Following implementation of the NT Liquor Act in 1979, numerous alcohol-focused legislative interventions have been introduced to address these harms. Most recently these have included a Banned Drinker Register (BDR); a Minimum Unit Price (MUP); and Police Auxiliary Liquor Inspectors (PALIs).

**Method / Approach:** Using a scoping review methodology, five electronic databases were searched from 1979 – 2020. A total of 475 titles and abstracts were screened; of which 28 met inclusion criteria. Reference lists of all included articles were searched, resulting in the inclusion of another 40 articles and reports. An additional report was identified by the authors, totalling 69 final documents.

**Results:** Of 12 identified NT-wide alcohol-focused legislative interventions, 6 have been formally evaluated; these include a change to takeaway outlet opening hours, the 'Two Kilometre Law'; Living with Alcohol program; Alcohol Mandatory Treatment; the second iteration of the BDR; and MUP. We identified 4 regional interventions, 3 of which have been formally evaluated in at least one location. An additional regional policy instrument was partly legislated and had been evaluated in multiple locations.

**Discussions and Conclusions:** It is clear that the high levels of alcohol-related harm in the NT has catalysed an exceptional amount of alcohol-focused legislative initiatives. A number of these interventions have demonstrated evidence of positive public health effects; however, several appear to have disproportionately affected Aboriginal residents.

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