DARWIN SAFE

The Northern Territory Government, the City of Darwin and the Australian Hotels Association (NT Branch) have come together to develop Darwin Safe – a three-way partnership aimed at making a night out in Darwin even safer.

Darwin Safe incorporates a suite of new and existing measures designed to ensure that Darwin city remains an enjoyable place whether you want to visit with your family or have a night out on the town. Darwin Safe is about ensuring anti-social behaviour is not tolerated without penalising responsible patrons.

Northern Territory Government Initiatives:

The Territory Government is introducing paperless arrests to ensure trouble-makers are processed faster and police officers are back on the beat quicker. Under this change, trouble-makers would be arrested and upon release, issued with a Summary Infringement Notice and a substantial fine. This fine would be in addition to any penalty for refusing to leave a licensed venue when asked by staff or police. This would be a quicker process and would mean less time wasted by police officers on paperwork at the Police Station.

The NT Government will spend $16,000 to maintain the existing Secure Taxi Rank in Mitchell Street.

The Territory Government will continue to monitor CBD venues to ensure that they are operating in accordance with their licence conditions and have licences that are appropriate to their core activities.

NT Police:

Police will maintain their high visibility presence in the Darwin entertainment precinct. This includes the use of drug sniffer dogs as needed.

The Territory has a network of 175 CCTV cameras allowing Police to monitor behaviour in key locations and crime hot spots across the jurisdiction. 63 of those cameras are in Darwin, Palmerston and Casuarina. The NT CCTV system is an efficient, effective detection and investigative tool that has both solved and prevented crime and antisocial behaviour. The Police-monitored CCTV network is in addition to the hundreds of cameras installed by individual venues to monitor behaviour on their premises.
**Australian Hotels Association (AHA):**

The Darwin CBD Liquor Accord was established in 2010 where members voluntarily agreed to a range of initiatives that make the CBD a safer place. These already include restrictions on promotional pricing of alcohol, restrictions on the length and promotion of ‘happy hours’, plastic or tempered beer glassware to be used at all times and plastic spirit glasses after 11pm.

In addition to these measures, operators of licensed premises in the Darwin entertainment precinct have agreed to introduce more self-imposed restrictions on the provision of alcohol and other pro-active measures.

Under Darwin Safe and the Darwin CBD Liquor Accord, venues will:

- Prohibit shots/shooters after 1am.
- Ban all shots/shooters that contain an alcohol content of 51% and over at all times.
- Introduce a four drink limit during happy hours and after midnight to prevent stockpiling of drinks.
- Provide a Responsible Service of Alcohol Marshall every Friday and Saturday from 11pm.
- Equip crowd controllers with high visibility vests or uniforms with high visibility patches to assist orderly movement of patrons.
- Develop and promote posters displaying the NT Government’s Failure to Quit $576 fine.
- Participate in any promotional campaign that boosts the city’s profile.
- In conjunction with the NT Government research the potential introduction of on-premise ID scanners, including their capabilities and costs.
- Develop a special radio system linking licensed venues and their security staff directly with NT Police to ensure better co-ordination and rapid response to any incidents.

In addition to these measures, the AHA will spend $16,000 this year to maintain the existing Secure Taxi Rank in Mitchell Street.

**City of Darwin Initiatives:**

The City of Darwin will progress a suite of measures as part of its $300,000 “Safer City Project”.

It includes the following key actions:

1. Establish a Safer Community Support Service.
3. Public space activation.
4. Supply control advocacy.

The City of Darwin will spend an additional $40,000 this year to maintain the existing Secure Taxi Rank in Mitchell St.

The City of Darwin will work with industry to raise awareness of the benefits of the Secure Rank to late night patrons of licenced premises.
Existing NT Government Measures

Darwin Safe also builds on a range of existing measures designed to ensure the city precinct is an appealing place to enjoy a meal or a drink. The Darwin Safe partners acknowledge that the alcohol issues in Darwin are not of the same scale, nature or amount per capita in other jurisdictions such as Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong, and that local solutions are the best way forward for our city.

Additional Government measures to tackle alcohol-related anti-social behaviour already in force in the Northern Territory include:

» **One Punch Legislation.** The Country Liberals Government introduced so called ‘one punch’ legislation more than a year ago, at the end of 2012. The offence of committing a violent act causing death was added to the Criminal Code. The change closed a gap in the law where a person has killed another and it’s not possible to prosecute for manslaughter or murder.

» **Alcohol Protection Orders.** Introduced in December 2013 by the NT Government, these laws give police the powers to ban a person from buying, consuming or possessing alcohol if they are charged with an offence attracting a jail term of six months or more whilst affected by alcohol. An order also bans a person from attending a licensed premises. The Orders can last for three, six or 12 months. There are over 500 of these Orders currently in force.

» **Failure to Quit Fines.** The Territory Government recently increased the on-the-spot fine for people who refuse to leave a licenced venue when asked by venue staff or Police. The fine was $144 and is now $576.

» **Declared Precinct Areas.** To help deal with alcohol fuelled disorder in late night venues and entertainment hot spots, an individual who engages in anti-social behaviour in or near a licensed venue within the precinct can be banned by Police for between 48 hours (and by the courts for up to 12 months). The bans can be from one or more venues or the whole declared area. 999 people were issued with banning notices in the Darwin CBD last year.

» **Lock-Outs.** There are mandatory lock-out licensing conditions for all venues with a 4am closing time preventing any entry after 3am.

» **Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Violent Offences.** New laws came into effect in the NT on 1 May 2013, introducing mandatory minimum sentences of 3 months or 12 months for violent offences.

» **Assault on Workers Legislation.** The Country Liberals Government made it an offence of assault on a worker in the new section 188 of the Criminal Code. This imposes a mandatory minimum prison sentence of three months for anyone convicted of assaulting a person who provides a public service in the Northern Territory and causes them harm.

» **Alcohol Mandatory Treatment.** The Territory Government has begun a new program of Alcohol Mandatory Treatment to help chronic alcoholics deal with their addiction. People deserve to get medical assistance to kick their drinking habit, instead of being subjected to the revolving door of protective custody. In the first six months of operation, 206 people have been referred to our Alcohol Mandatory Treatment system. Darwin Safe: Everyone’s Responsibility