

## Decision-making process for alcohol limits



The aim of the Alcohol Reforms is to reduce the harm caused by alcohol.

### How was the decision on the new alcohol limits reached?

A number of important factors were taken into account when determining the alcohol restrictions which would apply to each community, including:

- formal responses from councils and community justice groups about how alcohol related harm could be reduced
- feedback from communities during visits undertaken by senior government officers in April and August 2008
- feedback from stakeholders, such as Government Champions
- feedback from the investigations of key regulatory agencies, such as the Queensland Police Service and the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing
- the level of harm in each community.

The decision-making process has been careful, deliberate, inclusive, and most importantly directed towards reducing alcohol-related harm in the communities.

### Community Visits

In February 2008 the Premier promised the Mayors of discrete Indigenous communities that senior state government officers would visit each community to discuss:

- the community's view of 'how dry' it could go, including future plans for canteens (where applicable)
- services and supports the community thinks it needs to enable them to go as dry as possible
- potential issues/blockages, as well as infrastructure needs.

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These **visits occurred in April 2008** and each community was given the opportunity to prepare a formal response.

**Further visits were undertaken during August 2008** in order to provide final advice for government to determine any changes to restrictions and services by the end of October 2008.

The visits provided an opportunity to discuss with Mayors and community justice groups outcomes of the April 2008 visits, formal submissions received from councils, the level of alcohol-related harm, and proposals for:

- alcohol restrictions
- existing services (whether changes should be made) and proposed new alcohol-related services
- community actions (such as anti-sly grog campaigns and volunteer programs)
- infrastructure requirements.

### Summary of government's decision

The legislative changes introduced from 1 July 2008 represent a substantial tightening of alcohol management across all communities, including the divestment of general liquor licences by Indigenous councils by 31 December 2008. Government will provide funding to affected councils to enable them to continue to fund social services previously funded through canteen profits.

A review of alcohol carriage limits has been undertaken. Service delivery and regulatory responses have been recommended for all communities based on levels of harm, services needs, community consultation and the effectiveness of existing carriage limits.

Tighter alcohol restrictions will commence on 2 January 2009 for the communities of Hope Vale, Yarrabah, Doomadgee, and Pormpuraaw.

There will be no change to existing carriage limits for other communities.

Alcohol-related services will now be available to support all communities, with an allocation of \$66 million over four years, with an additional \$43 million coming from the Commonwealth over the same period.

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