

## The impact of 2017-18 Northern Territory alcohol policy changes on adult domestic and family violence Emergency Department diagnoses

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**Introduction:** This study examines the impact of three alcohol policies – the Banned Drinker Register (BDR), Minimum Unit Price (MUP), and Police Auxiliary Liquor Inspectors (PALIs) – on domestic and family violence Emergency Department diagnoses. The BDR is an individual ban enforced at takeaway alcohol outlets; MUP is a pricing policy; and PALIs are auxiliary officers who enforce bans on consumption in restricted areas at takeaway outlets. Both the BDR and MUP apply across the Northern Territory, while PALIs are only in place in three towns. Purchase Limits were also introduced in Tennant Creek.

**Method:** We used interrupted time series models to examine the impact of these policies on trends in adult (aged 15+) patients with a domestic and family violence-related Emergency Department diagnosis codes from Jan 2014 – Feb 2020 in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Alice Springs.

**Key Findings:** Following the BDR, there were slope increases across the NT (1.3%), in Tennant Creek (2.5%), and in Alice Springs (1.9%). Purchase Limits were associated with a 78% immediate decrease. Across the NT there was 43% immediate decrease following the introducing of MUP and a 62% decrease in Alice Springs following the combined MUP/PALIs introduction. In Katherine PALIs were associated with a 54% decrease.

**Conclusion:** The BDR was associated with gradual increases, while Purchase Limits were associated with reductions in domestic and family violence. MUP was associated with an NT-wide reduction, although this is likely influenced by the combined introduction of MUP/PALIs in Alice Springs with no change in Darwin.

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