



Northern Territory Council of Social Service

Mr Graham Samuel
Chairman
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir

CASUARINA LIQUOR ACCORD – A91201

The Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) is a peak group for community sector organisations across the NT, and an advocate for disadvantaged Territorians.

NTCOSS supports the ACCC's draft determination in respect to the Casuarina liquor accord, and the Commission's observation that supply restrictions will reduce anti-social behavior and produce a public benefit.

Alcohol misuse causes enormous human misery in the NT, and costs taxpayers in the region of \$600M every year. Alcohol related deaths in the Territory are three times the national average, and alcohol related hospital admissions five times the national average.

NTCOSS believes that the most effective way to reduce the damage alcohol does in our community is through a multi-pronged approach which addresses supply and demand issues, as well as the need for treatment facilities.

We would like to see fewer alcohol outlets, reduced hours of trading, and an increase in the cost of the cheapest and most damaging alcohol products.

We believe that measures such as the Casuarina Liquor Accord will make a significant contribution to reducing the social and economic consequences of alcohol misuse in Darwin.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Morton
Executive Officer
Northern Territory Council of Social Service
6 April 2010