



Australian Government
Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

FILE No:
DOC:
MARS/PRISM:

Dr. Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Dr. Chadwick,

I refer to your letter to Dr. Jeff Harmer, Secretary of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), of 31 March 2010, regarding the draft determination of the application for authorisation lodged by the Casuarina All Sports Club. Dr. Harmer has requested that I respond on his behalf.

The Department appreciates that the use of liquor accords can be effective in encouraging accord members to actively contribute to the safety and wellbeing of their communities by implementing practical solutions to alcohol related problems without mandatory legislation. This is in line with the Australian Government's policy position that local solutions, including targeted restrictions on the supply of alcohol, can be more effective than blanket restrictions.

FaHCSIA is working closely with the Northern Territory Government to reduce alcohol related harm in Indigenous communities and town camps across the Northern Territory. The Department had earlier advised that it is not able to provide in depth comment on this matter because the proposed Casuarina Business Liquor Accord concerns the supply of alcohol in a commercial area of Darwin. However, FaHCSIA does offer in-principle support for the authorization of the Liquor Accord in light of its aim to reduce alcohol supply and, subsequently, alcohol related harm.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Bruce Smith
Branch Manager
Office of Indigenous Policy

20/4/10

