

Madam Speaker Purick took the Chair at 10 am.

**ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION BILL
(Serial 25)**

Bill presented and read a first time.

Ms FYLES (Attorney-General and Justice): Madam Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

The Alcohol Harm Reduction Bill brings back the Banned Drinker Register. Our government is delivering on a key election commitment to Territorians to reduce alcohol-related harm and make our community safer.

We know most people drink responsibly; however, we also know the misuse of alcohol has a huge impact on the lives of Territorians and our communities. Alcohol misuse accounts for a significant proportion of work that police, health services and the courts do. Alcohol misuse impacts on school attendance, domestic violence, child protection issues, incarceration rates and the road toll.

This government knows the original Banned Drinker Register, BDR, was working. At the time the BDR was recklessly scrapped by the CLP government, after 14 months, more than 2500 people were on the register. The availability of alcohol was restricted to those people. Over 16 400 sales to problem drinkers were declined in the first year of operation. People who were engaging in alcohol-related crime or misusing alcohol were being stopped at the point of sale from purchasing takeaway alcohol.

As per the previous model the new BDR is established under section 31A of the *Liquor Act*. Anyone wishing to purchase takeaway alcohol will present their photographic identification for scanning, as required under this section. The ID will then be cross-referenced with the BDR.

Where a person does not appear on the BDR the screen at the point of sale will show a green tick and the sale can proceed. Where a person does appear on the BDR the screen will show a red cross and the sale cannot proceed.

Where an ID is scratched or unreadable a manual search of the BDR can be undertaken by the sales person at the outlet and a sale will either be approved or refused. This process takes less than 10 seconds and will operate in conjunction with the existing scanning systems we already have in place in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Nhulunbuy.

Materials will be available at the point of sale to explain to a person who is being refused service why they are unable to purchase and how they can obtain more information about their ban.

The forms of ID accepted by the scanners include:

- Australian and many international passports
- Australian and some international drivers' licences
- Evidence of Age cards
- Ochre Card
- Australia Post Keypass Card.

The addition of the keypass card means Territorians will have greater access to obtaining photographic ID. The card can be applied for at any Australia Post outlet across the Northern Territory and will potentially reduce the demand of people seeking ID from the Motor Vehicle Registry outlets.

Scanning devices from the previous BDR are being reused wherever possible. Next generation equipment is being used where that is not possible. Cabling work for new or renovated premises will be completed this month, and training and technical support will be made available for all outlets in the coming months.

A mobile scanning solution for drive-through outlets is currently being worked through and will be rolled out in the near future.