

Alcohol harm minimisation investments welcomed by leading NT research institute

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Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) has welcomed the investment in alcohol harm minimisation strategies released today by the Northern Territory Government in *The Northern Territory Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-19*.

The action plan responds to the *Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review Final Report* released by Justice Trevor Riley in October 2017, and includes support to establish an independent and locally-based alcohol research unit.

Father Frank Flynn Fellow and Professor of Harm Minimisation at Menzies, Professor James Smith, said the response by the NT Government to tackle alcohol related harm by implementing a suite of measures, as previously outlined in the Riley Review, is welcomed by the institute.

“The costs and harms of alcohol to the NT community are well documented, and remain the highest in Australia. It is impressive to see that the NT Government has supported 186 of the recommendations, and indicated in-principle support for a further 33 recommendations. Investing in research and evaluation is an important part of building an evidence-base about which harm minimisation strategies work best and why,” Prof Smith said.

“*The Northern Territory Alcohol Harm Minimisation Action Plan 2018-19* shows a commitment to investing in alcohol-related research and evaluation. Menzies looks forward to working with the government to advance this agenda by assessing the processes, impacts and outcomes of alcohol harm minimisation strategies planned for implementation across the NT.

“A commitment to review the NT Liquor Act over the coming year is equally important. This will enable the introduction of legislative and policy measures to further minimise the harm of alcohol across the NT,” Prof Smith said.

Menzies has a long history of research into substance misuse in the NT, and has led numerous process, impact and outcome evaluations of alcohol-related community-based programs and policy interventions.

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[Professor James Smith](#) is available for interview.

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Menzies School of Health Research

Menzies School of Health Research is one of Australia’s leading medical research institutes dedicated to improving Indigenous, global and tropical health. Menzies has a history of over 30 years of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies works at the frontline, joining with partners across the Asia-Pacific as well as Indigenous communities

across northern and central Australia. Menzies collaborates to create new knowledge, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.