Inquiry into Community Safety, Support Services and Job Opportunities in the Northern Territory
Submission 10



EXHIBITS FOR

DONNA AH CHEE (Central Australian Aboriginal Congress CEO) presentation at the Public Hearing of the

Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Inquiry into Community Safety, Support Services & Job Opportunities in the Northern Territory
Alice Springs – 9 December 2022

FIGURE 1: An ecological model of the drivers of family violence in Aboriginal communities

Specific to
Aboriginal
communities
(the
experience of
colonisation)

- •Suppression of culture & language
- Dispossession from land and its resources
- Undermining cultural systems of authority and meaning
- •Forcible removal of children from their families

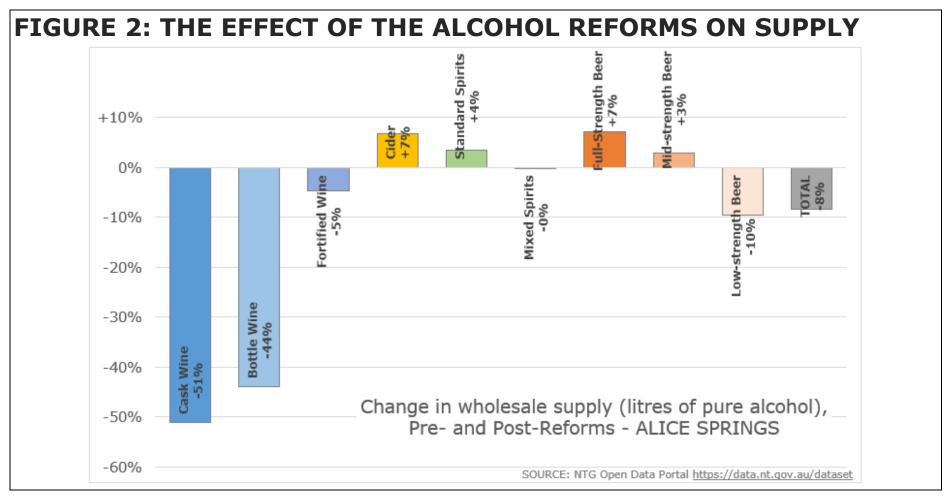
Common to other peoples / populations

- Gender inequality
- Adverse childhood experience (including family violence)
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Poverty and inequality
- Disempowerment
- Mental ill-health
- Poor education / unemployment

-AMILY VIOLENCE

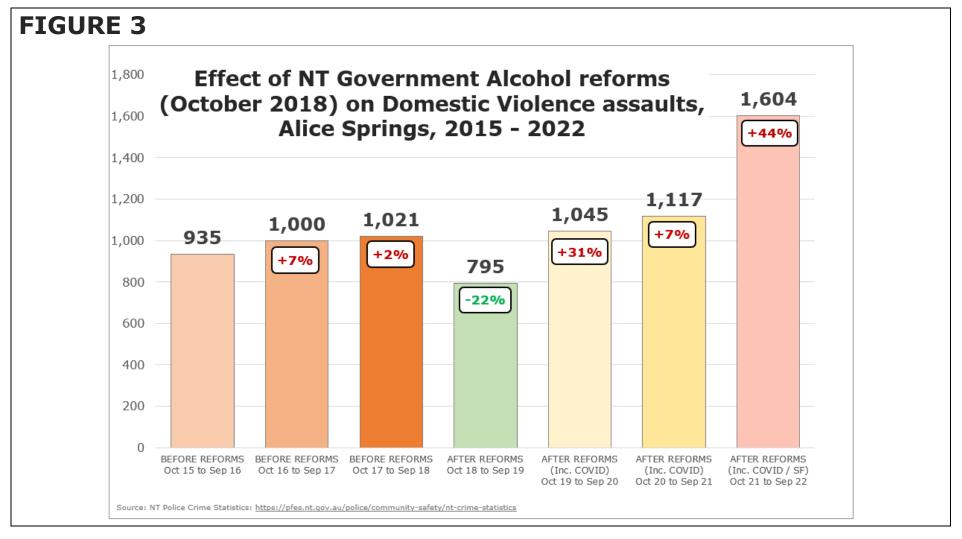
Adapted from Olsen A and Lovett R, Existing knowledge, practice and responses to violence against women in Australian Indigenous communities: State of knowledge paper. 2016, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS): Sydney vett R, Existing knowledge, Indigenous communities:

There is no simple, single systemic cause of Aboriginal family violence. Many factors contribute, some of them specific to the experience of Aboriginal peoples of the processes of colonisation; others are common to other populations experiencing marginalisation and disadvantage.



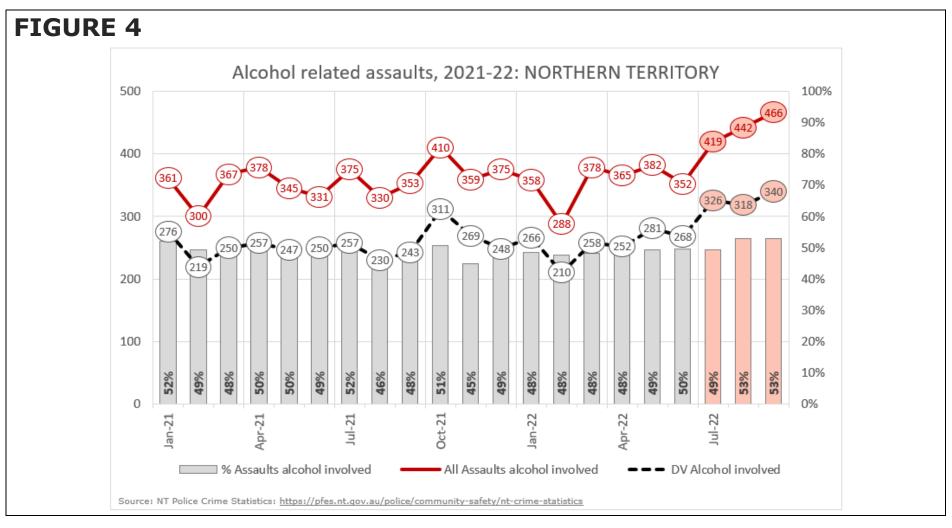
The Northern Territory Government's package of alcohol reforms introduced in October 2018 led to a **significant decrease** in the amount of alcohol sold in Alice Springs, down 8% (grey bar at right), comparing the year immediately before the reforms and the year immediately after the reforms.

The reforms (which included a world-leading Minimum Unit Price on alcohol) were particular effective in reducing the sale of the cheapest and most dangerous forms of alcohol – cask wine and low quality bottled wine (blue bars at left).



The decrease in alcohol availability led to dramatic decreases in alcohol related harm in Alice Springs. This graph shows how **Domestic Violence assaults decreased by 22%** in the year after the introduction of the Alcohol Reforms (green bar).

Unfortunately, as seen across the world, the effect of COVID has been to increase the frequency of Domestic Violence.



This graph shows the effect of the expiry of the Strong Futures (Alcohol Protected Area) provisions in July 2022 across the Northern Territory. There was **an immediate and significant increase in the number of alcohol related assaults and the number of DV assaults where alcohol was involved** (red shaded bubbles). The proportion of assaults where alcohol was involved also increased (red bars).