

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 409

Topic: Banned Drinkers Register/ Closing the Gap

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

In her Closing the Gap speech the Prime Minister quoted statistics about the positive impact of the former NT Labor Government's Banned Drinkers Register and called on the NT Government to re-introduce it. In defence of the register the PM claimed there were 10,000 fewer anti-social incidents. a) Where did this figure come from? b) What is meant by anti-social incidents? c) The PM said there had been a drop in alcohol related incidents but police figures show a 2.9% increase. How do you account for this?

Answer:

The NT Department of Attorney-General and Justice, NT Quarterly Crime Statistics - September Quarter 2012, which were the most recent figures available at the time of the PM's Closing the Gaps Statement, provides quarterly information on alcohol-related assaults. A comparison of the four major centres (Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs and Katherine) showed a decrease in alcohol-related assaults over 2011-12 when compared to 2010-11.

On 1 August, the then Northern Territory Treasurer Delia Lawrie issued a media release stating that there has been "a staggering 10,000 less anti-social behaviour incidents over 12 months, supporting anecdotal evidence that our streets and parks are far quieter since the introduction of the BDR". The term "anti-social incidents" is used by the Northern Territory Government to refer to law and order issues.