



Management of Alcohol Consumption in Alice Springs: views of Congress members

May 2016

In late 2015, the Congress Research Service invited all Congress members to participate in a survey exploring their views on alcohol interventions in Alice Springs. At the time there were 170 members and 47 (24%) participated. The aim of the study was to determine how Congress members would like to see Congress deal with some important issues in relation to alcohol consumption in Alice Springs. From the members who participated in the assisted online survey, we found:

- no support for a total ban on alcohol (prohibition)
- no support for Congress' involvement in the sale of alcohol
- just over half (57%) preferred external regulation (laws to control the sale and consumption of alcohol) compared to self-regulation (43%)
- not all interventions are equally supported. Of the members interviewed, the following interventions were supported:
 - banned drinkers register (85%)
 - minimum alcohol pricing (no cheap grog) (57%)
 - photo id to buy alcohol (57%)
 - police at alcohol sale outlets (46%)
 - Aboriginal ownership of social clubs (46%)
 - a reduction in trading hours for alcohol sales outlets (45%)
 - a reduction in the number of take away alcohol outlets (45%)

The survey also asked some general questions about motivation, leadership and communication. We found:

- The reasons for participating in the survey were 'to do the right thing' and 'to give feedback to Congress';
- One of the main reasons members chose not to participate was because they drank alcohol themselves and thought it was therefore inappropriate to comment;
- Members are just as happy to accept leadership (listen) as they are to give direction (be heard) to the Board; and,
- Most members prefer to be contacted by email or in-person rather than by phone.

Research Services would like to thank all members who participated in this survey, we appreciate your views. For more information, contact the Research Coordinator on **(08) 8958 4898** or via email at research@caac.org.au.