NT Liquor Commission decision welcomed as sensible and preventive

The Northern Territory Branch of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has welcomed the NT Liquor Commission’s decision to protect Darwin from further alcohol-related harm by rejecting Dan Murphy’s application to establish the city’s largest takeaway liquor outlet at Eaton.

“The Liquor Commission’s decision backs strong evidence from the community about the potential harm to individuals, families and the community,” said Dr Rosalie Schultz, PHAA NT Branch spokesperson.

“It’s incredibly disappointing to see our Chief Minister Michael Gunner categorically dispute the Commission’s decision, as if he believes we need more alcohol in Darwin,” Dr Schultz said.

“The NT Liquor Commission’s decision was largely based on how near the proposed liquor barn would be to vulnerable communities.”

“Nonetheless alcohol-related harm isn’t confined to vulnerable communities near the proposed store site. Alcohol harm crosses all social groups in the Darwin community and all Territorians bear the costs of this harm given the burden alcohol creates on our hospitals and health services, police, court and prisons.”

The Public Health Association of Australia congratulates the Liquor Commission for responding to diverse local objections, and accepting the overwhelming evidence of the link between increased alcohol availability and its toll of death, injury, disease and crime.

“It was like a battle of David and Goliath, with volunteer community groups stepping up against one of Australia’s largest retailers to support ourselves and our children.”

“The Commission’s decision protects the NT community, especially the most vulnerable from Woolworths’ predatory money-making agenda,” Dr Schultz said.

Further information/comment:

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