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| UCA Logo - Print Version | **Uniting Church in Australia** NORTHERN SYNOD |

**Proposal on Reducing the Supply of Alcohol**

That the Synod

a) Recognises the very serious problem caused by excessive alcohol consumption in Alice Springs and other Territory towns.

b) commends Coles and Woolworths Alice Springs in their decision to set a floor price on alcohol and to call on them to extend this to their other Territory outlets.

c) requests the NT Government to introduce an alcohol floor price based on the minimum price of most full strength beer (currently $1.20 per standard drink).

d) encourages the Federal Government to also respond to recent requests from Indigenous leaders in Central Australia to reduce the supply of alcohol.

Rationale:

1. Peoples Alcohol Action Coalition meets monthly and represents five local Indigenous organizations, churches, NTCOS, Central Australia Remote Health Services, Mental Health Services in Central Australia, concerned individuals and NGOs operating in Alice Springs.
2. The Territory Government recently brought in new laws that will include a banned drinkers register and will a require ID for alcohol purchase. This is good but PAAC believes that it does not go far enough and would like to see much stronger measures.
3. A $1.20 floor price is based on the minimum price of most popular full strength beer in NT - VB or green cans. The regular price of beer will not increase as claimed by Minister Lawrie.
4. An alcohol floor price will mean that the price of the cheapest wine in casks will increase by up to four times.
5. Research has shown that price is one of the biggest determinants on how much drinkers will buy.
6. The Australian Hotels Association in NT supports a floor price and a recent editorial in the NT News came out in favour.
7. Following introduction of a floor price, the next step to reducing alcohol consumption should be an alcohol-free day. This needs to be co-ordinated with the day Centrelink payments are made. Unfortunately, since the introduction of direct bank deposits, payments are spread over the whole week. Centrelink needs to return to one day per week for an alcohol-free day to be successful.