

MINIMUM PRICING FOR ALCOHOL IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Alcohol sold in the Northern Territory to consumers can no longer be priced for less than \$1.30 per standard drink



The Northern Territory has the highest per person consumption of alcohol in Australia, with the highest rate of risky consumption, hospitalisations and death involving high blood alcohol concentration



A review of NT alcohol policies and legislation in 2017 resulted in the development of the NT Alcohol Harm Minimisation Plan in 2018, setting out 219 steps to be adopted in the NT over several years



The Alcohol Harm Minimisation Plan brings together legislative change, alcohol licensing changes, point of sale intervention, emergency and social services changes, and a minimum unit price ("MUP") for alcohol



Any alcohol sold in the NT to a consumer, whether via a bottleshop, in a bar, in a restaurant or online, cannot be sold for less than \$1.30 per standard drink. \$1.30 is the MUP.

The greatest impact will likely be to cheap bottles of alcohol sold for home consumption.

Some examples:

750ml bottle of 12% wine, containing 7.1 standard drinks: $\$1.30 \times 7.1 = \9.23 minimum price

2L of 13% cask wine, containing 21 standard drinks: $\$1.30 \times 21 = \27.30 minimum price

750ml bottle of 18% fortified wine, containing 11 standard drinks: $\$1.30 \times 11 = \14.30 minimum price

So, what next?

It is hoped that the introduction of MUP will see a decrease in excessive alcohol consumption and alcohol related harms in the NT.

Rigorous evaluation of the MUP will take place for the next 3 years to measure its impact.

It is possible that other Australian states/territories will implement similar regimes in relation to alcohol. Indeed, there may be other industries/products where similar minimum pricing might be proposed, e.g. fast food, sugar, soft drink, etc.

Watch this space!

David Smith
Partner
03 9252 2563
david.smith@gadens.com

Allison Rickard
Paralegal
03 9252 2586
allison.rickard@gadens.com

Jess Bell
Paralegal
03 9252 7701
jessica.bell@gadens.com

Cassandra Cox
Paralegal
03 9612 8201
cassandra.cox@gadens.com