

# Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory

An alliance of the CLC, NLC, CAALAS, NAAJA and AMSANT

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **APO NT Backs Wide-Ranging Alcohol Inquiry**

**10 January 2014**

Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT (APO NT) today came out in support of a wide ranging Parliamentary Inquiry into alcohol announced by the Federal Government this week.

“APO NT commends the Government for announcing a broad inquiry which will take a comprehensive approach to tackling alcohol abuse,” said APO NT spokesperson John Paterson.

“For too long our families and our communities have witnessed the destructive effects of alcohol. We need real change to prevent further alcohol related harm to our children and young people,” said Mr Paterson.

“Alcohol related harm affects the whole the community. We believe it is important that this inquiry has a broad remit to examine alcohol related harms across the entire community.”

APO NT previously called for an inquiry which will provide a way forward for action by communities, professionals, and Government to work together to solve the problems of alcohol related harm in our communities.

“Expert evidence tells us that piecemeal solutions which only address part of the alcohol problem are ineffective. As we heard at our Grog Summits, solutions to the harm caused by alcohol must be holistic if they are to be effective,” said Mr Paterson.”

“We need recommendations that cover effective alcohol **supply** controls as well as strong preventative and early intervention measures that address **harm** minimisation and the need to reduce the **demand** for alcohol consumption.”

“The inquiry should provide a roadmap based on alcohol policy evidence *not* on politics, *nor* the financial interests of the liquor industry,” said Mr Paterson.

“This inquiry presents an opportunity to objectively examine what works, and what doesn’t work in addressing alcohol related harms across the whole community.”

“And we hope that the Inquiry will enable the development a comprehensive plan for tackling that harm.

For further information, contact Sarah Stoller on 0487 341 117.