

The Impact of Liquor Restrictions in Kununurra and Wyndham

Six month review

February 2012



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Suggested citation:

Drug and Alcohol Office WA (2012). The impact of liquor restrictions in Kununurra and Wyndham: a six month review

Note:

This report is not exhaustive and does not make any recommendations in relation to the current restrictions. There has been no significance testing conducted on the data provided in this report. Therefore, caution should be applied when interpreting the results.

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Executive Summary

The Big Wet

The Kimberley region experienced a very intensive 'Wet Season' in 2010/11 which resulted in flooding throughout the region, and a higher than normal number of transient community members in Kununurra and Wyndham who were unable to return to their remote community homes.

The Oombulgurri community was cut off during the Wet and many community members stayed in Wyndham. Service providers advised that the impact of the additional community members was minimal over this period, as many Oombulgurri residents have been living in Wyndham since the community was made dry under Section 175 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* in late 2008.

In mid-March 2011 the Warmun community was evacuated due to flooding and approximately 300 community members were relocated to a mining camp within walking distance of Kununurra. They stayed in the camp until mid-July 2011.

Frontline agencies such as police and health reported that the additional Warmun community members have had an impact on their services. However, it is difficult to separate the Warmun residents from the statistics to ascertain the extent of the impact. Subsequent reports (scheduled for 12 and 24 months post restriction) will enable a longer comparative timeline that will provide greater clarity about the extent of the impact the additional community members had on the services.

Overview

In February 2011, restrictions on the sale and supply of packaged (or take-away) alcohol were introduced in Kununurra and Wyndham under Section 64 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988*.

Prior to the mandated restrictions, Kununurra and Wyndham licensees and service providers negotiated a range of voluntary restrictions and conditions on the sale of alcohol. These included:

- Restricting the availability of cask wine and fortified wine after 5:00pm (the sale of alcohol with alcohol content greater than six percent in containers greater than 1L was prohibited by the Director of Liquor Licensing in March 2009 across the Kimberley).
- Stopping the sale of 750ml bottled beer (the sale of all takeaway beer in individual glass containers of more than 400ml was prohibited by the Director of Liquor Licensing in March 2009 across the Kimberley).
- Stopping the sale of packaged liquor at the request of police during funerals and special events.

Prior to the mandated restrictions of February 2011, there was no limit on the amount of take-away alcohol that could be purchased by an individual. Take-away alcohol was available on a Sunday and full-strength alcohol was available from 10:00am at the bar and from 12:00pm in take-away form.

On 7 February, the following restrictions on the sale of take-away alcohol came into effect.

Table 1. Summary of restrictions on the sale of take-away alcohol

	ALCOHOL STRENGTH	TIME AVAILABILITY	QUANTITY (per person, per day)
a)	2.7% and below (e.g. light beer)	Monday- Saturday 12pm – 8pm	No limit
b)	2.8% - 3.5% (e.g. some mid-strength beers)	Monday- Saturday 12pm – 8pm	11.5 Litres e.g. 30 x 375mL cans
c)	3.6% - 7% (e.g. some mid to full strength beers, some spirits or Ready to Drinks [RTDs])	Monday- Saturday 5pm-8pm	11.5 Litres e.g. 30 x 375mL cans
d)	7% - 15% (e.g. wine, some spirits or RTDs)	Monday- Saturday 5pm-8pm	1.5 Litres e.g. 2 x 750mL bottles
e)	Greater than 15% (e.g. spirits, wines, liqueurs)	Monday- Saturday 5pm-8pm	1 Litre

Liquor may be purchased in the amounts specified in (b) and (c) plus either (d) or (e), but not both.

See Appendix 1 for more details of the restrictions.

During the months of August and September 2011, the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) reviewed the impact of the above restrictions after six months of implementation by collecting and comparing quantitative and qualitative information from service providers, businesses and individuals in Kununurra and Wyndham.

Summary of findings

General

The following was found in both Kununurra and Wyndham.

- There was general agreement that drinking has become less visible in and around the towns since the restrictions. This includes fewer itinerant drinking camps and less street drinking.
- Sundays and Mondays are noticeably quieter post-restriction, with significantly less litter and vandalism. Improvements in community engagement and service delivery on Mondays in particular are attributed to the no take-away sales on Sundays.
- There has been no notable increase in the amount of alcohol being brought into town via transport companies and/or Australia Post.
- Incidents involving domestic disputes, public disturbances, street drinking and assaults resulting in visits to the hospital emergency department are generally occurring later at night. This places extra pressure on fewer staff.
- Racial tensions in Kununurra and Wyndham seem to have escalated since the introduction of the restriction.

Kununurra

Police reported an increase of 18 percent in tasking for the six month period post-restriction (February to July 2011) compared with the same period pre-restriction. Domestic and non-domestic assaults remained relatively stable pre and post-restriction (136 pre-restriction and 127 post-restriction). From February to July 2010 (pre-restriction), there were 33 random breath tests (RBTs) conducted for every drink driving charge. Post-restriction the ratio was 47 RBTs for every drink driving charge.

Kununurra Hospital Emergency Department (ED) recorded a slight decrease in alcohol-related presentations post-restriction, from 755 pre-restriction (February to July 2010) to 746 post-restriction (February to July 2011). There was a rise in the number of presentations occurring from midnight to 7:00am post-restriction (98 pre-restriction and 136 post-restriction). The total number of ambulance call-outs increased by eight percent in Kununurra post-restriction.

Admissions to the Waringarri Sobering Up Centre (SUC) decreased by 69 percent post-restriction, from 1,642 pre-restriction (February to July 2010) to 503 post-restriction (February to July 2011). The number of alcohol and drug treatment episodes for Kununurra residents did not change significantly post-restriction. Out of the 46 treatment episodes post-restriction, 38 identified alcohol as the primary drug of concern.

Tourism in Kununurra has not been adversely affected by the restrictions with the majority of tourists happy to support the restrictions. A small minority have expressed their frustration when unaware of daily limits or hours of sale prior to arriving in the town.

Wyndham

Wyndham Police recorded a 12 percent decrease in tasking from February to July 2011 (post-restriction) compared with the corresponding period pre-restriction. There was a small increase in verified assault charges post-restriction, from 29 pre-restriction to 34 post-restriction.

Alcohol-related presentations to the Wyndham Hospital ED rose by 20 percent in the six months post-restriction, from 167 pre-restriction to 209 post-restriction. There was a slight increase in the number of presentations from midnight to 7:00am (from 17 to 22). Ambulance call-outs in Wyndham remained relatively stable pre and post-restriction (84 callouts pre-restriction and 89 post-restriction).

Admissions to the Ngnowar Aerwah SUC increased almost two and a half times post-restriction, from 374 admissions pre-restriction to 897 post-restriction.

Introduction

Overview

On the 30 November 2010, the Director of Liquor Licensing released his decision in relation to restricting the sale and supply of packaged liquor in Kununurra and Wyndham under Section 64 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988*. It was his decision that, as of the 7 February 2011, each relevant license that authorises the sale of packaged liquor be subjected to the following conditions indefinitely (see Appendix 1 for further details).

1. Having regard to condition 3(b) below, packaged liquor may only be sold and supplied on a day other than a Sunday, Good Friday, Christmas Day or ANZAC Day – from 12:00pm to 8:00 pm.
2. The sale and supply of liquor for consumption on premises is prohibited before 12:00pm, except where it is sold or supplied ancillary to a meal or to a lodger.
3. The sale and supply of packaged liquor may only be sold or supplied in the following quantities:
 - a. where the liquor contains less than 2.7 per cent concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius – in any quantity;
 - b. where the liquor contains greater than 2.7 per cent but no more than 7 per cent concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius – a maximum cumulative quantity of 11.5L per customer per day; and where the liquor contains greater than 3.5 per cent concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius that liquor can only be sold between 5:00pm and 8:00pm;
 - c. where the liquor contains greater than 7 per cent but no more than 15 per cent concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius – a maximum cumulative quantity of 1.5L per customer per day; and
 - d. where the liquor contains greater than 15 per cent concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius – a maximum cumulative quantity of 1L per customer per day.

A person may purchase liquor in quantities provided for by (b) plus either (c) or (d) but not both.

Prior to the mandated restrictions, Kununurra and Wyndham licensees and service providers negotiated a range of voluntary restrictions and conditions on the sale of alcohol. These included:

- Restricting the availability of cask wine and fortified wine after 5:00pm (the sale of alcohol with alcohol content greater than six percent in containers greater than 1L was prohibited by the Director of Liquor Licensing in March 2009 across the Kimberley).
- Stopping the sale of 750ml bottled beer (the sale of all take-away beer in individual glass containers of more than 400ml was prohibited by the Director of Liquor Licensing in March 2009 across the Kimberley).
- Stopping the sale of packaged liquor at the request of police during funerals and special events.

Prior to the mandated restrictions of February 2011, there was no limit on the amount of take-away alcohol that could be purchased by an individual. Take-away alcohol was available on a Sunday and full-strength alcohol was available from 10:00am at the bar and from 12:00pm in take-away form.

Following a series of reports outlining the impact of mandated liquor restrictions in Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek, DAO undertook to conduct a similar process to gauge the impact of the new liquor restrictions in Kununurra and Wyndham.

The Big Wet

The Kimberley region experienced a very intensive 'Wet Season' in 2010/11 which resulted in flooding throughout the region. Due to the flooding, there was a higher than normal number of transient community members in Kununurra who were unable to return to their remote community homes.

Most significant was the relocation of the Warmun community to Kununurra. In mid-March 2011, approximately 300 Warmun community members were relocated to a mining camp within walking distance of Kununurra where they stayed in the camp until mid-July 2011. Frontline agencies such as police and health have reported that the additional Warmun community members have had an impact on their services.

It is difficult to separate the Warmun residents from the statistics to ascertain the extent of their impact on services in Kununurra. Subsequent reports (scheduled for 12 and 24 months post-restriction) will enable a longer comparative timeline that will provide greater clarity about the extent of the impact the additional community members had on the services with more clarity.

The Oombulgurri community was cut off during the Wet and many community members stayed in Wyndham. Service providers advised that the impact of the additional community members was minimal over this period, as many Oombulgurri residents have been living in Wyndham since the community was made dry under Section 175 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* in late 2008.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a statistical overview of the changes in a range of key health, social and justice indicators related to alcohol use, along with anecdotal accounts obtained from various service providers and businesses. The report does not make any recommendations regarding the current restrictions.

Scope

This report into the impact of liquor restrictions in Kununurra and Wyndham covers the periods of:

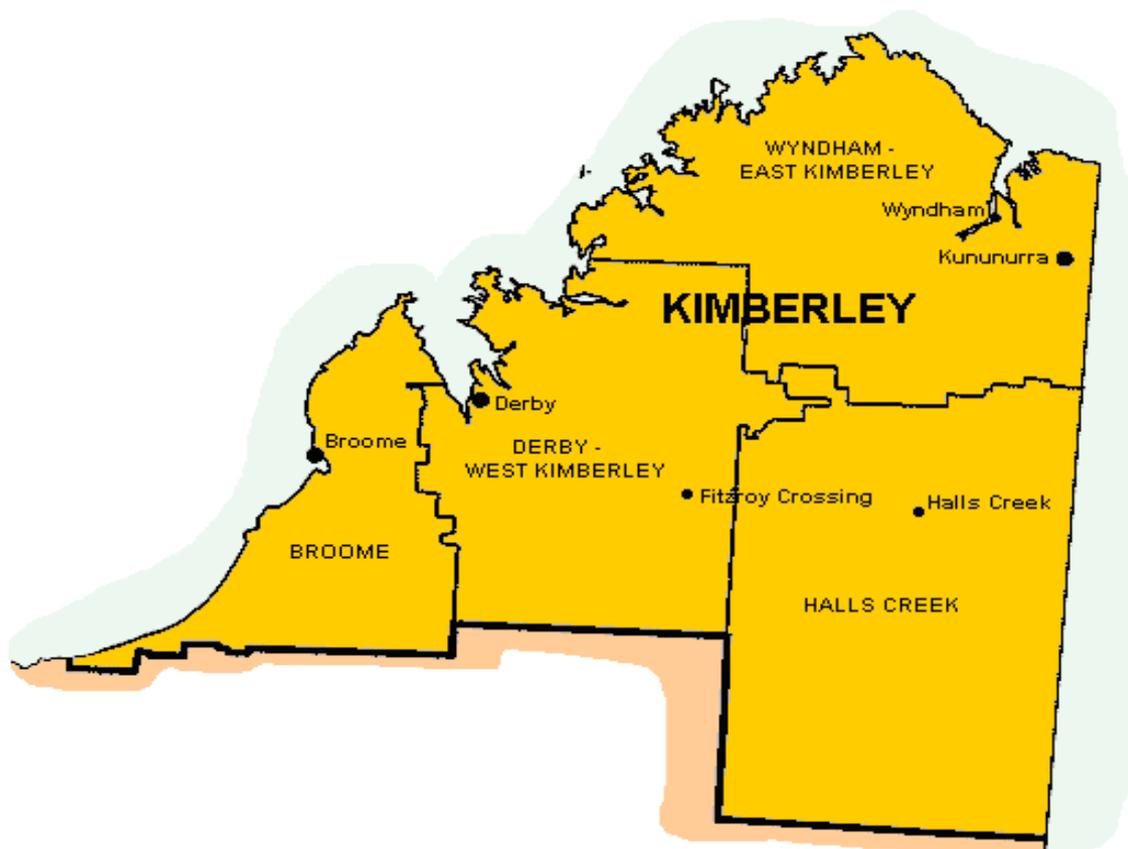
- Pre-restriction: February 2010 to January 2011; and
- Post-restriction: February 2011 to July 2011.

This report has been developed utilising two types of information:

1. Quantitative (statistical) data was collected from various government and non-government agencies and community service providers to measure trends in health, social and justice outcomes related to alcohol use pre and post-restriction; and
2. Qualitative (anecdotal) data was collected through one-to-one or group interviews to identify the perceptions, views and opinions of service providers and community stakeholders in relation to the impact of the restrictions in its first six months of implementation.

To account for seasonal variation in population characteristics and alcohol-related indicators, statistical comparisons primarily relate to the six month pre-restriction period from February to July 2010 and the corresponding period post-restriction (February to July 2011).

Background



Population

In 2010, the total population for the Kimberley Health Region was 35,706, which represented 1.6 percent of the State's population. Between 2010 and 2020, the population is expected to increase by an average annual rate of 5.7 percent. Based on these projections, the size of the Kimberley population is estimated to increase by 74.3 percent by 2020. According to 2009 Estimated Resident Populations, Aboriginal people accounted for 45.1 percent of the area's population, which is considerably higher than the State average of 3.3 percent.

Shire of Wyndham/East Kimberley

- Town of Wyndham – estimate 700 (ABS data 2006)
- Town of Kununurra – estimate 3,700 (ABS data 2006)
- Surrounding communities – 43 communities and 1,985 people
- Total population – 7,863 (ABS data 2010)

Alcohol-related harm

The Kimberley region of Western Australia experiences disproportionate levels of alcohol-related harm that far exceed the State average.

Recent reports and data have found the following:

- In 2010, 26.8 percent of Kimberley residents aged 16 years and over reported drinking at levels that placed them at high risk of short-term harm compared with 17.8 percent of the State population. In the same year, 56.3 percent reported drinking at levels that placed them at high risk of long-term harm compared with 38.8 percent of the State population.
- Between 2005 and 2009, the rate of alcohol-related hospitalisations in the Kimberley Health Region was 4.3 times higher than the corresponding State rate. The number of hospitalisations was significantly higher for both males and females (3.7 and 5.2 higher respectively).

- Alcohol-related hospitalisations for the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley alone were 4.7 times higher than the corresponding State rate. Wyndham-East Kimberley residents were hospitalised a total of 968 times for alcohol-related conditions between 2005 and 2009. They consumed 3,014 beddays (81 per 1,000 persons) at a cost of \$4,089,550 (\$109.85 per capita).
- Between 2005 and 2009, the total rate of alcohol-related hospitalisations for Aboriginal people living in the Kimberley region was significantly higher (1.5 times) than the corresponding State rate.
- The highest rate of alcohol-related hospitalisations in the Kimberley region was for ‘assaults’ (11.1 times higher than the State rate).
- Between 1999 and 2007, the Kimberley region had 2.9 times the level of alcohol-caused deaths than the State average. Rates were significantly higher for both males and females at 2.9 and 2.7 respectively.
- Of the alcohol-related deaths recorded in the region, 81 percent were male. The age group most affected was the 45-64 year olds.
- The rate of all alcohol-related deaths for Aboriginal people in the Kimberley was significantly higher (1.2 times) than the corresponding State rate.
- At a regional level, the rate of alcohol-related deaths for Aboriginal people was significantly higher than the non-Aboriginal rate (2.8 times).^{1,2}

Liquor Licensing Information

Liquor Licenses

There are a total of **24** liquor licenses in the towns of Kununurra and Wyndham.

Table 2. Licensed premises in Kununurra and Wyndham, 2011

Kununurra total licensed premises n=19		Wyndham total licensed premises n=5	
Hotel	2	Hotel	1
Hotel Restricted	3	Restaurant	1
Club	1	Club	1
Liquor Store	1	Liquor Store	1
Special Facility	8	Special Facility	1
Small Bar	1		
Tavern	1		
Club Restricted	2		

Alcohol Accords

There is currently one (1) active Accord, located in Kununurra.

¹ Drug and Alcohol Office WA and Epidemiology Branch of Department of Health WA (2011). Alcohol-related hospitalisations and deaths: Kimberley.

² Epidemiology Branch of Department of Health WA and the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (2011). Health status report on alcohol deaths – drug-caused for the Kimberley Health Region. Accessed 11 January 2012.

Methodology

This section describes the processes taken to gather the qualitative and quantitative data used in this report.

Data Collection Processes

In July 2011, DAO sent requests to a range of government and non-government agencies and local businesses to obtain data for inclusion in the six month report. Quantitative data was provided by various agencies and service providers, including hospital and health services, police and local and regional SUCs for the 12 month period pre-restriction (February 2010 to January 2011) and the six month period post-restriction (February to July 2011). The provision of this information was entirely voluntary. For a variety of reasons, some agencies were unable to provide data in a suitable format or in the time frame required.

Qualitative data was collected through a series of conversations conducted with individuals, businesses and service providers in Kununurra and Wyndham. Anecdotal accounts obtained through this process were used to gauge community perceptions of the restriction and to identify perceived costs and benefits from various perspectives. Collecting qualitative data also provided a contextual basis from which to better understand and interpret statistical data. Interviews lasted between 30 and 90 minutes depending on the availability of the respondent and the amount of detail provided.

All conversations were facilitated by the Manager of DAO's Community Programs area. Written notes were recorded by the facilitator and another member of the Community Program's team for subsequent analysis and reporting. In some cases, respondents were also asked for their permission to audio-record the discussion. Discussion topics focused on general awareness of, and attitudes concerning, the restrictions and associated impacts on service provision and/or alcohol-related harm.

Table 3: Information sources for inclusion in the six month review of liquor restrictions, Kununurra and Wyndham

	Kununurra	Wyndham
Quantitative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police • Kununurra District Hospital • St John Ambulance • Waringarri Sobering Up Centre • Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police • Wyndham District Hospital • St John Ambulance • Ngnowar-Aerwah Sobering Up Centre • Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
Qualitative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police • Kununurra District Hospital • Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service Team • Waringarri • Department for Child Protection • Department of Indigenous Affairs • Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley • Tourist Centre • Chamber of Commerce • Transport Companies • Australia Post 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police • Wyndham District Hospital • Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service Team • Ngnowar-Aerwah • Department for Child Protection • Department of Education • Department of Indigenous Affairs • Women's and Men's Shelter • Transport Companies • Australia Post

In all material gathered for this report, no individuals are named and information is presented in a manner which represents perspectives and patterns of behaviour at a community-level. Prior to the dissemination of any specific information, all respondents were provided with the opportunity to revise and comment on their contribution to the report.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data provided by agencies and service providers was transported into Excel for analysis. Alcohol-related incidents for each relevant dataset (i.e. hospital ED, police, SUCs) were reviewed for the time period of interest to identify trends pre and post-restriction.

Audio-recordings and written notes taken during interviews were transcribed and reviewed to identify key points in relation to the restriction.

Findings

Introduction

The following section presents the key quantitative and qualitative information gathered for the six month review of liquor restrictions in Kununurra and Wyndham.

The impact of liquor restrictions in Kununurra and Wyndham

Kununurra Services

Kununurra Police

Qualitative

Police confirmed that there have been no noticeable changes in the number of tasks they are responding to since the restrictions were introduced. However, a shift in tasking times, from late afternoon to early evening and later at night, has been experienced.

Street drinking and drinking camps were believed to have decreased post-restriction. It was noted that there is usually a reduction in drinking camps during the Dry Season when the nights are typically cooler. Subsequent reports on the impact of the restrictions will enable the identification of any seasonal trends in the number of drinking camps around the community. Police also indicated that they have been targeting public drinking in the period leading up to the restrictions and immediately after, which would contribute to less people being seen drinking on the streets and congregating in public areas. Allegations of sly-grogging in the community were also mentioned, but police have not received any formal complaints.

Police noted that the existence of party houses remains an issue post-restriction, although they believe the problem has not escalated from that observed pre-restriction. While police have encouraged people to report party houses, they have not seen an increase in call-outs to address this issue.

Police tasking on Sundays and Mondays has been less post-restriction and is attributed to the no take-away sales on Sundays. Police said they have noticed two distinct “drinker groups” since the restrictions were introduced that reflected the availability of different types of alcohol. A “mid-strength group” is made up of those who start drinking earlier in the day when only mid-strength take-aways are available, and a “full-strength group”, which is comprised of those who wait until full-strength alcohol is available at 5:00pm.

An increase in the number of people consuming mid-strength beer is seen as a positive shift in terms of reducing alcohol-related harm.

Police noted the importance of maintaining the majority of restrictions for at least a 12 month period to measure the impact during the Wet, when levels of street drinking typically rise.

Quantitative

The WA Police provided statistical information regarding random breath testing (RBT) and resulting drink driving charges, police (CAD) tasking, assaults and domestic violence incidents for February 2010 to January 2011 (pre-restriction) and February to July 2011 (post-restriction).

Road Traffic and Random Breath Testing (RBT)

A total of 3,604 RBTs were conducted by Kununurra Police from February to July 2011 (post-restriction), 596 more than the corresponding pre-restriction period (3,008 in total). During the same two periods there were fewer resulting drink driving charges recorded post-restriction (76 compared with 91 pre-restriction).

The ratio of RBTs to drink driving charges pre-restriction was 33.1 to 1 (3,008 RBTs resulting in 91 drink driving charges). The ratio improved to 47.4 to 1 in the six month post-restriction period (3,604 RBTs resulting in 76 drink driving charges).

Table 4. Random breath tests and resulting drink driving charges made by Kununurra Police, pre and post-restriction

	February – July 2010 Pre-restriction	February – July 2011 Post-restriction	
RBTs	3,008	3,604	+ 596
Drink Driving Charges	91	76	- 15
Ratio	33.1:1	47.4:1	

General Police (CAD) Tasking

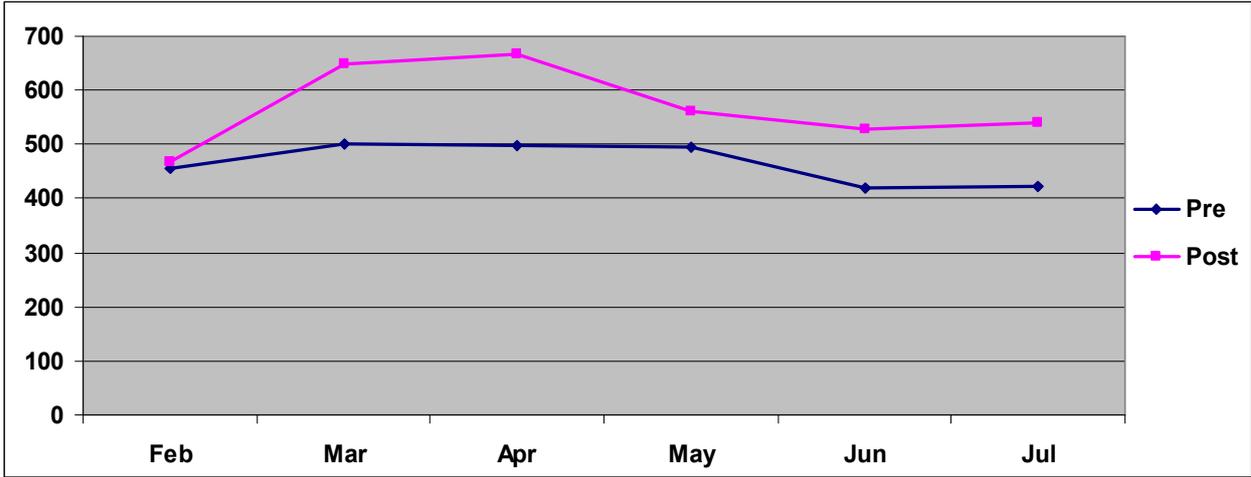
Any instance where police are called to attend to a situation by a member of the public or identify a situation whilst on patrol is recorded as a task.

It must be noted that the six month post-restriction period included approximately three months when the Warmun community were residing in Kununurra, which impacted on CAD tasking numbers.

Overall, the statistics show an 18 percent increase in the number of tasks recorded by Kununurra Police in the six month period post-restriction (February to July 2011) compared with the same period pre-restriction.

- A total of 2,792 CAD tasks were recorded pre-restriction (February to July 2010). This increased by 620 tasks in the same period post-restriction (3,412 in total).

Figure 1. Police tasking activity, Kununurra, pre and post-restriction



Verified Assault Offences

Since the introduction of the restrictions in February 2011, there has been a slight decline in the number of verified assault offences recorded by Kununurra police.

- A total of 136 domestic and non-domestic assaults were recorded from February to July 2010 (pre-restriction) and 127 for the same period post-restriction.

While there have been no significant changes in the total number of assault offences recorded in Kununurra post-restriction, notable reductions in alcohol-related assaults were observed.

- From February to July 2011 (post-restriction), the number of alcohol-related domestic and non-domestic assaults fell by 17.8 percent, from 101 pre-restriction to 83.

Figure 2. Total and alcohol-related assault offences reported to the Kununurra Police, pre and post-restriction

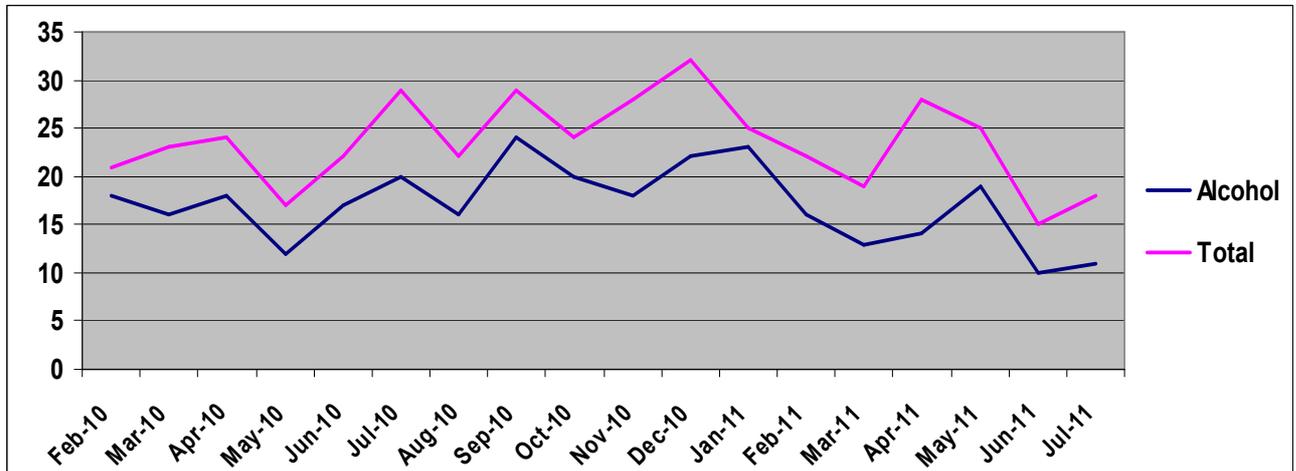


Table 5. Alcohol-related assault offences reported to the Kununurra Police, pre and post-restriction

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	
Pre-restriction	18	16	18	12	17	20	101
Post-restriction	16	13	14	19	10	11	83
Difference Post	- 2	- 3	- 4	+ 7	- 7	- 9	- 18

For domestic assaults the number of cases reported to the Kununurra Police remained similar in the pre and post-restriction period.

- There were a total of 76 domestic assault offences recorded in the six month post-restriction period, five fewer than recorded for the same period pre-restriction (81 in total).
- The proportion of alcohol-related domestic assaults remained high post-restriction. Out of the 76 total domestic assaults recorded, 81.6 percent were alcohol-related (62 alcohol-related). This was comparable with the pre-restriction period, where 79 percent of domestic assaults were alcohol-related (64 out of 81 total domestic assaults).

Table 6. Alcohol-related domestic assault offences reported to the Kununurra Police, pre and post-restriction

		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
Pre-restriction	Alcohol-related DV	15	9	8	6	12	14	64
	Total DV	17	15	13	8	13	15	81
Post-restriction	Alcohol-related DV	14	8	11	15	6	8	62
	Total DV	17	8	15	18	8	10	76

Kununurra District Hospital

Qualitative

While it was noted that recent changes to hospital reporting systems may have resulted in an under reporting of the number of alcohol-related presentations during the restriction period, there appears to have been no significant change in the number of people presenting to Kununurra ED for alcohol-related issues since the restriction was introduced. However, a shift in the time of day that presentations occur was noted. Presentations are generally occurring later at night, which was thought to coincide with the change in hours of full-strength take-away sales. Increased risk to ED staff was raised as a concern given the limited availability of staff at night to deal with alcohol-related issues.

There have been no noticeable changes in the severity of alcohol-related cases presenting to Kununurra ED over the six month post-restriction period. It was noted that alcohol-related seizures and injuries caused by domestic violence and assaults continued to present as issues post-restriction.

Seasonal trends in alcohol-related hospital admissions were also noted. An increased population during the Wet was thought to coincide with annual increases in alcohol-related ED presentations.

A slight reduction in the number of hospital presentations occurring on Mondays was linked to the no take-away sales on Sundays. However, hospital staff said they were surprised at the limited change in presentations occurring on Sundays, stating that there remains a substantial number of alcohol-related admissions since the restrictions have been in place.

There has been no noticeable change in illicit drug-related ED admissions over the six month post-restriction period.

Hospital staff discussed the importance of continuing the restrictions for a full 12 month cycle to monitor seasonal trends. However, bringing the restriction on all take-away sales back to 12:00pm would potentially reduce risk at the hospital by shifting alcohol-related admissions to earlier in the day when staff availability was greater.

Quantitative

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) provided data on emergency department (ED) presentations and triage codes for ED presentations to Kununurra from February 2010 to July 2011.³ St John Ambulance operate the volunteer ambulance service in Kununurra and provided callout data for February 2010 to July 2011.

Alcohol-related Emergency Department Presentations

Since the restrictions were introduced in February 2011, there has been little change in the number of alcohol-related ED presentations to the Kununurra Hospital. However, a notable shift in the timing of presentations was recorded.

- In the six month period post-restriction (February to July 2011), the number of alcohol-related presentations to the Kununurra ED fell by nine compared with the same period pre-restriction, from 755 pre-restriction to 746 post-restriction.
- There were 38 more presentations recorded from midnight to 7:00am post-restriction (98 pre-restriction and 136 post-restriction).

³ The data on emergency department (ED) presentations were taken from the HCARE data system, which is used in many West Australian hospitals. The HCARE data system categorises presentations to the ED by Major Diagnostic Category (MDC). There is no independent category within which all alcohol-related presentations are recorded. While alcohol may be a contributing factor to a presentation, presentations to the ED are recorded according to the primary condition requiring treatment. This results in under-reporting of alcohol-related presentations. For example, a patient presenting with a broken jaw as a result of an alcohol-related fight will be recorded as an 'injury' and not an 'alcohol-related injury'. For use in this report, the ED data grouped under 'alcohol-related presentations' is drawn from two MDCs that commonly feature alcohol-related presentations i.e. 'Alcohol/Drug Use' and 'Injury/Poison/Toxic Drug Effect'. The category 'Alcohol/Drug Use' primarily records those presenting for acute alcohol or drug intoxication, which is the reason why the figures are very low. These figures are indicative only and should be considered in the context of other data presented in this report.

- Of these 38 additional presentations, 36 occurred between 2:00am and 7:00am.

Figure 3. Alcohol-related presentations to Kununurra Hospital, pre and post-restriction

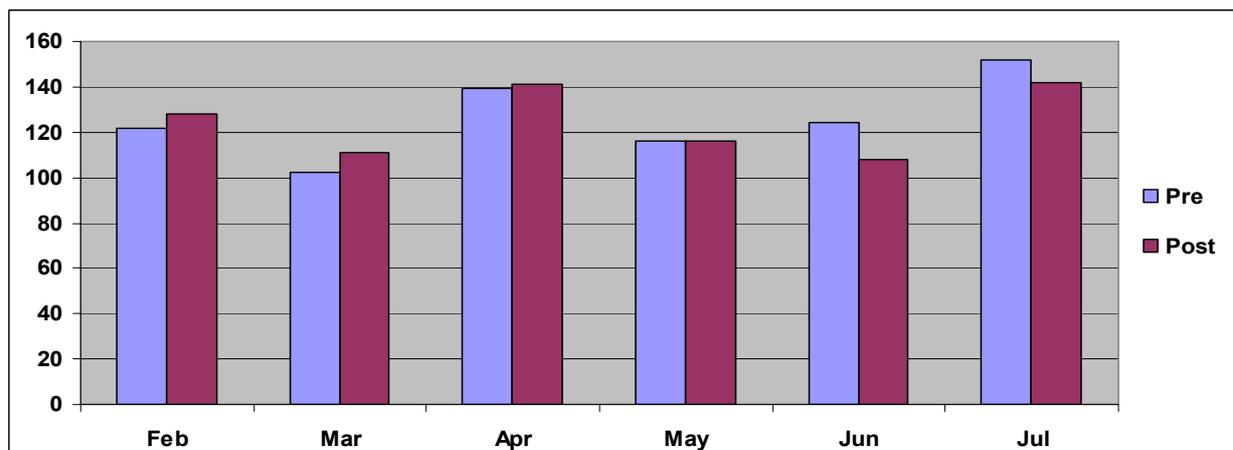
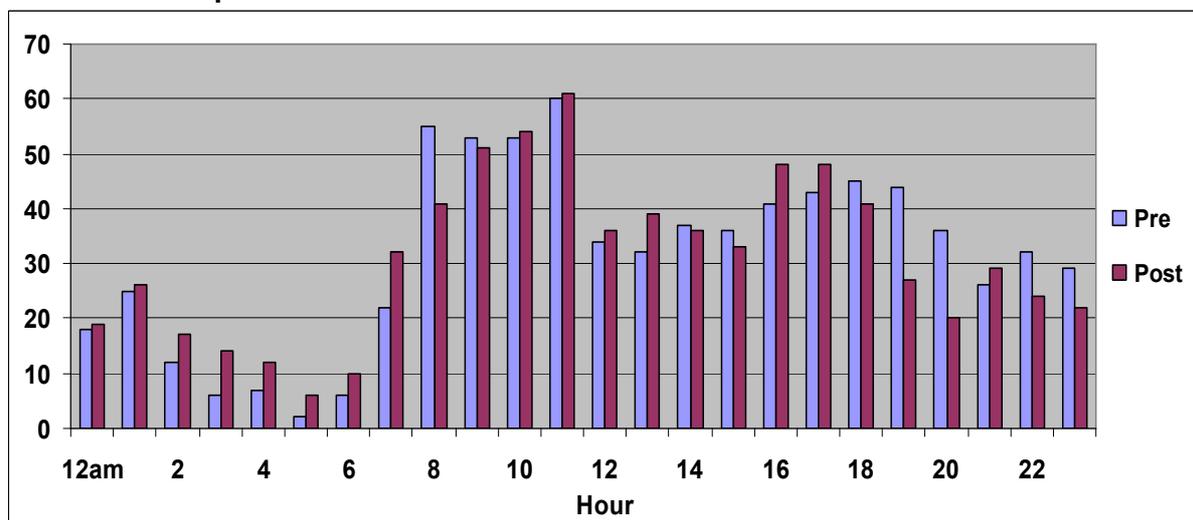


Figure 4. Alcohol-related presentations to Kununurra Hospital by time of day, pre and post-restriction



Triage Categories

All WA ED presentations are classified into one of five triage categories according to their severity and the urgency of treatment - from category 1 as the most urgent through to category 5 as the least urgent.

The majority of alcohol-related presentations fall under triage categories 4 and 5. Table 7 provides a pre and post-restriction comparison of alcohol-related presentations to the Kununurra ED according to triage code.

- From February to July 2011 (post-restriction), the number of alcohol-related presentations classified as category 3 and 4 increased by 27 percent (51 presentations) and 8.6 percent (31 presentations) respectively compared with the corresponding pre-restriction period.
- Category 5 presentations dropped by 37.5 percent post-restriction, from 251 pre-restriction to 157 post-restriction.
- The number of alcohol-related presentations classified as category 2 remained stable pre and post-restriction (36 and 38 respectively). One presentation was classified as category 1 post-restriction compared with nil in the same period pre-restriction.

Table 7. Alcohol-related presentations classified by triage category at Kununurra Hospital, pre and post-restriction

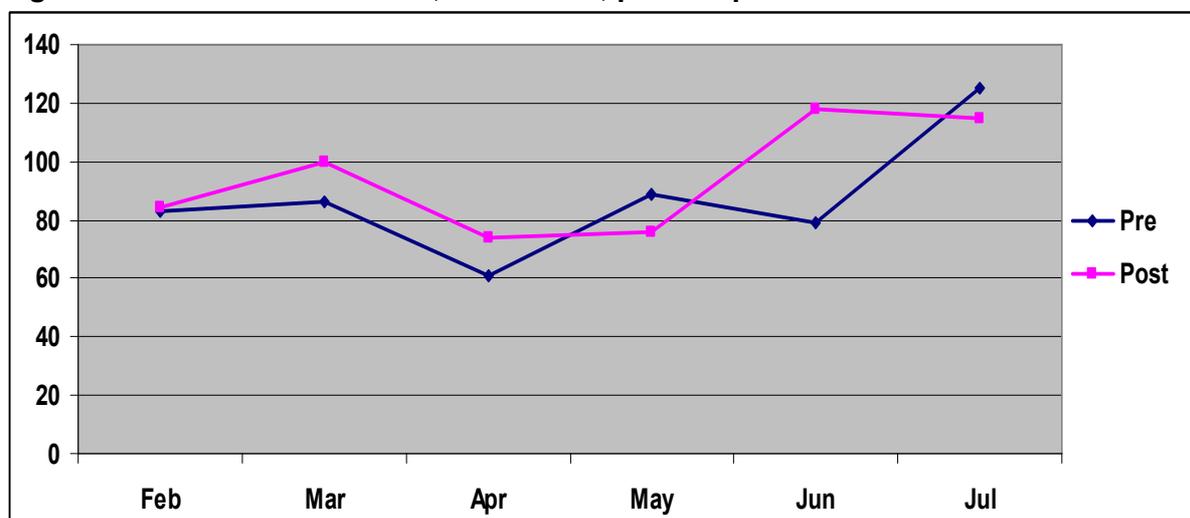
Triage Category	February to July 2010 Pre-restriction	February to July 2011 Post-restriction	Difference Pre / Post
1	0	1	+ 1
2	36	38	+ 2
3	138	189	+ 51
4	330	361	+ 31
5	251	157	- 94
Total	755	746	- 9

St John Ambulance - Kununurra

St John Ambulance records all callouts but does not differentiate between alcohol-related and other callouts.

- From February to July 2010 (pre-restriction), there were a total of 523 ambulance callouts recorded in Kununurra. This increased by 43 callouts in the same period post-restriction (566 in total).

Figure 5. Ambulance callouts, Kununurra, pre and post-restriction



- The number of callouts completed during the day (8:00am to 8:00pm) increased by 47 post-restriction, from 263 pre-restriction to 310 post-restriction.
- A similar number of callouts were completed at night (8:00pm to 8:00am) pre and post-restriction (260 and 256 respectively).

Table 8. Ambulance tasks by month and time of day, Kununurra, pre and post-restriction

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
2010 Day	37	39	27	47	47	66	263
2011 Day	44	53	34	38	79	62	310
2010 Night	46	47	34	42	32	59	260
2011 Night	40	47	40	38	38	53	256

Waringarri Sobering Up Centre and Night Patrol Services

Qualitative

Overall, it was noted that the restrictions have not had a significant impact on admissions to the Waringarri SUC. However, there has been a noticeable shift in the time that clients are presenting.

Post-restriction, two waves of admissions are observed at the SUC. The initial client group typically present in the late afternoon to early evening (4:00pm – 5:00pm) and consists of those who consume mid-strength alcohol from 12:00pm. A second influx of people are presenting later in the evening (approximately 9:00pm – 10:00pm) and comprise those who top up on, or wait for, full-strength alcohol to become available. The second wave of people presents a significant concern due to the limited capacity to accommodate them later at night. It was also noted that the later group are more aggressive and the police are often called to deal with issues arising when people cannot be admitted to the SUC.

Waringarri staff believe that the liquor restrictions have shifted drinking activity from public spaces to houses. Less people are seen on the streets at night and this is attributed to fewer opportunities to acquire alcohol after the bottle shops closed at 8:00pm. Intoxicated people who want to access more alcohol from the bars inside the hotel are generally refused entry as they are already intoxicated.

The shift in drinking activity from public spaces to houses has had a notable impact on the Miriwoong Night Patrol services. Pre-restriction, the operational hours of the night patrol were from 5:00pm to 1:00am. Post-restriction, the night patrol operates from 2:00pm to 10:00pm. The change in hours was necessary due to the lower demand on the streets after the bottle shops close. The patrol generally clears public areas of intoxicated people between the hours of 8:00pm to 9:00pm. By 9:30pm, the need for the patrol has almost dried up and patrol staff indicate that they are not finding intoxicated adults after 10:00pm.

Patrol staff also noted concerning behavioral changes in the community. Some people are now drinking low strength alcohol from 12:00pm to 5:00pm and then bingeing on full-strength alcohol after 5:00pm. By the time the patrol staff encounter these people, they are often aggressive and abusive towards staff. This was very rare prior to the restrictions.

Concerns were raised with regard to the local taxi service apparently exploiting local community members. Drivers are thought to be taking advantage of intoxicated people by picking them up and taking them to the bottle shop knowing it is unlikely that they will not pass the breathalyser test to purchase alcohol. Therefore, they are taking them home at the cost of a round trip.

The delayed availability of full-strength alcohol was thought to have had a positive impact on community engagement in services offered by Waringarri. There is now a window of opportunity during the day to access people before drinking typically commences, which is reflected in the greater number of people involved in programs post-restriction. However, it was also noted that the later availability of full-strength alcohol is pushing issues associated

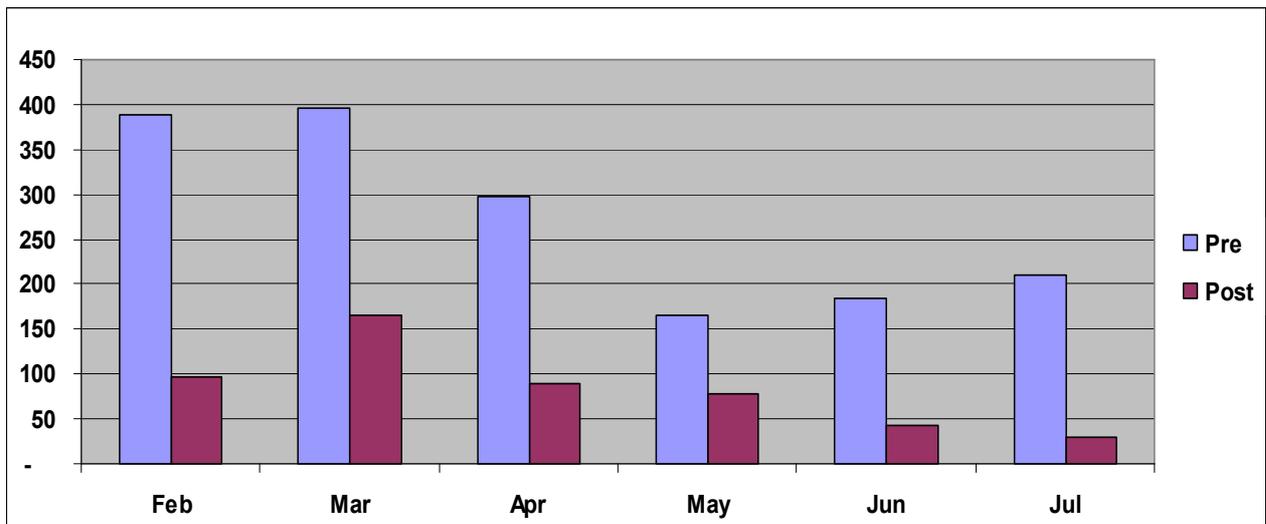
with intoxication to later into the evening. A potential advantage of moving the restriction on full-strength alcohol back to 12:00pm was that it would be likely to result in earlier intoxication, allowing people to “sleep it off” and therefore alleviate some of the issues presenting in houses late at night.

Quantitative

The Waringarri SUC provided presentation data for the 12 month period pre-restriction (February 2010 to January 2011) and the six month period post-restriction (February to July 2011).

- The total number of admissions to the Waringarri SUC decreased by 69 percent, from 1,642 pre-restriction (February to July 2010) to 503 post-restriction (February to July 2011).

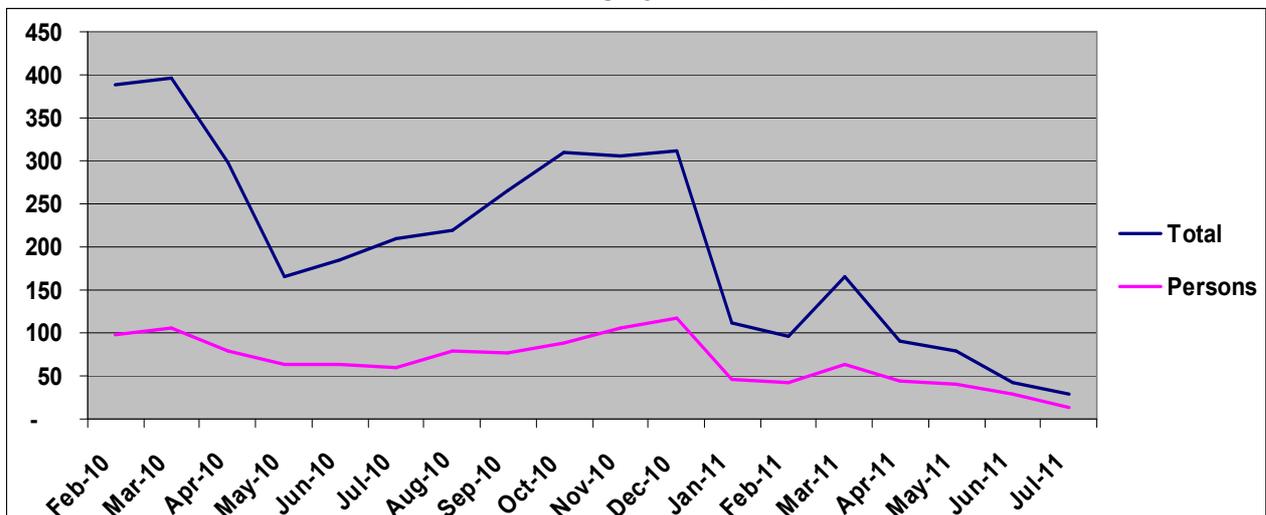
Figure 6. Presentations to Kununurra Sobering Up Centre, pre and post-restriction



Some people presented more than once during the reporting period. Figure 6 provides a comparison between total presentations and the number of individuals who presented each month from February 2010 to July 2011.

- There were 237 fewer individual presentations by month post-restriction (February to July 2011) than the same period pre-restriction (469 pre-restriction and 232 post-restriction).

Figure 7. Kununurra Sobering Up Centre total presentations compared with the number of individuals presenting by month, pre and post-restriction



Information collected on the home community of people presenting to the Kununurra SUC showed that, of the 1,642 presentations for the pre-restriction period of February to July 2010, 18 percent listed Kununurra as their home community. For the same period, Halls Creek residents were the next most frequent users of the facility (14 percent), followed by Warmun (8 percent) and Kalumburu and Fitzroy Crossing (both 7 percent). Three percent of presentations did not list a home community on their presentation form.

Of the 503 presentations recorded in the post-restriction period (February to July 2011), approximately one quarter (28 percent) were Kununurra residents and 12 percent were from the Warmun community. There were no residential details included on 21 percent of admission records.

Figure 8. Kununurra Sobering Up Centre total presentations by location, pre-restriction

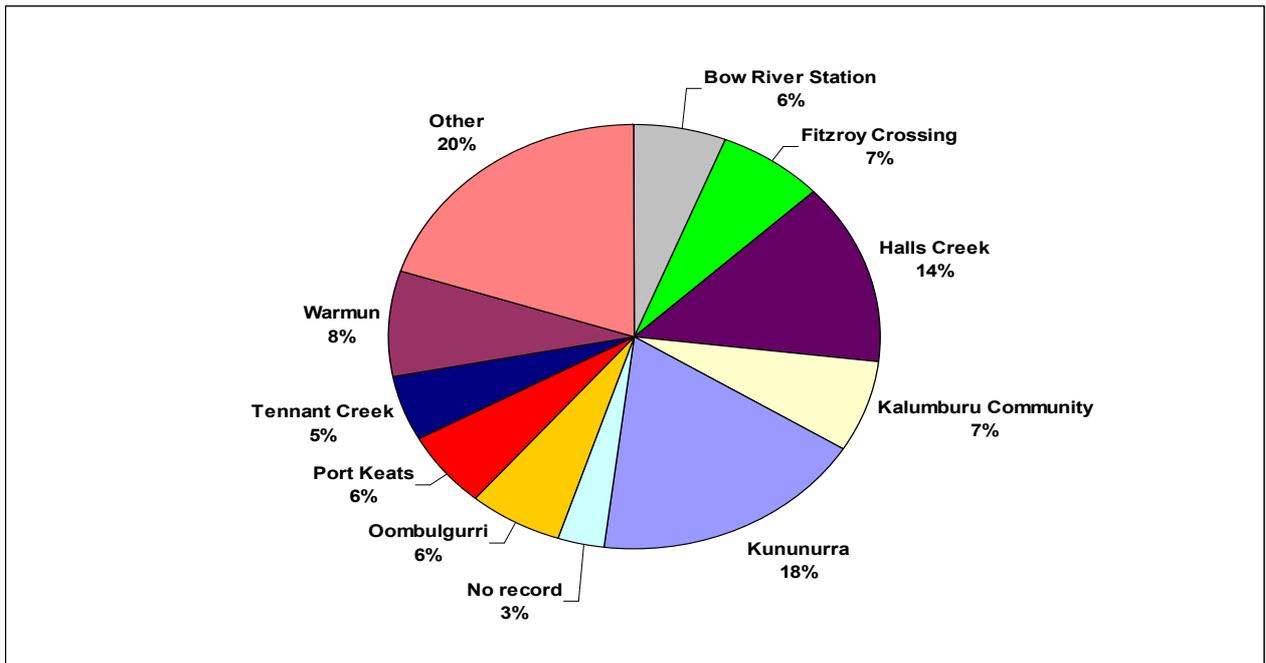
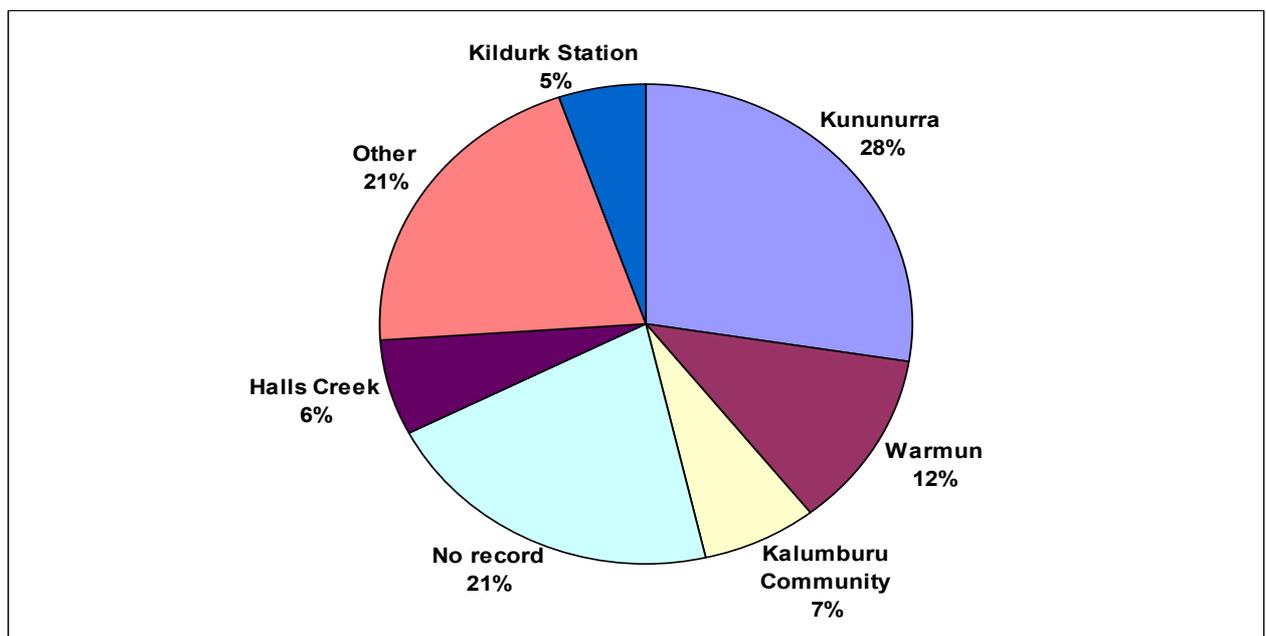


Figure 9. Kununurra Sobering Up Centre total presentations by location, post-restriction



Kununurra Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Three primary areas of concern were identified by the Kununurra Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) in relation to the liquor restrictions:

- The whole of community approach taken by the restrictions is inconveniencing the total population rather than targeting only those contributing to the problem.
- The restrictions are believed to be damaging the “Brand Kununurra” image and therefore may have a long-term detrimental impact on tourism. While the need to advertise the restrictions outside of the region is acknowledged as an important step in increasing levels of awareness among tourists, a negative impact is the potential to create an image of Kununurra as a “troublesome” town.
- It was noted that the restrictions are weakening the Kununurra workforce by making it difficult to attract and retain staff. Before the restrictions, a large proportion of blue collar workers would finish work at 2:00pm or 3:00pm and have a drink before going home. Post-restriction, there is a tendency for workers to stay at work or remain in the township until 5:00pm so they can access their preferred alcohol products on the way home, resulting in less time spent with their families.

The KCCI suggested that the relevant authorities consider implementing a system similar to the restriction measures used in Katherine and elsewhere in the Northern Territory, such as drinking “bans” and/or licenses that can be revoked. The extension of compulsory income management is also worth considering, although it is acknowledged that the effectiveness of this is diminished through bartering or black market on-sales within problem groups.

Bringing the restrictions on full-strength alcohol back to 3:00pm or 4:00pm is seen as a potential avenue to reduce the impact on families.

Wyndham Services

Wyndham Police

Qualitative

Police noted a slight shift in the timing that the majority of alcohol-related tasks are occurring since the restrictions were introduced, from 12:00am - 1:00am to 3:00am - 4:00am. There have also been some changes in the type of issues that police are responding to. Post-restriction, the level of severity of incidents seems to have decreased. Alcohol-related daytime tasking in Wyndham has always been low and this has not changed as a result of the restrictions.

Wyndham police mentioned that drinking camps around the town have all but gone and there is a lower prevalence of street/public drinking. A shift in drinking activity from public places to houses made it easier for police to manage and contain any incidents.

The main advantage occurring from the restrictions to date is the impact of the no take-away sales on Sundays. Police reported a significant decrease in alcohol-related tasking on Sundays and Mondays, which has also resulted in greater opportunity to engage with community members and encourage access to services during the day.

Quantitative

Road Traffic and Random Breath Testing (RBT)

A total of 982 RBTs were conducted by Wyndham Police from February to July 2011 (post-restriction), 179 more than the corresponding pre-restriction period (803 in total). There was a slight decline in the number of drink driving charges post-restriction (24 pre-restriction and 21 post-restriction).

The ratio of RBTs to drink driving charges pre-restriction was 33.5 to 1 (803 RBTs resulting in 24 drink driving charges). The ratio improved to 46.8 to 1 in the six month post-restriction period (982 RBTs resulting in 21 drink driving charges).

Table 9. Random breath tests and resulting drink driving charges made by Wyndham Police, pre and post-restriction

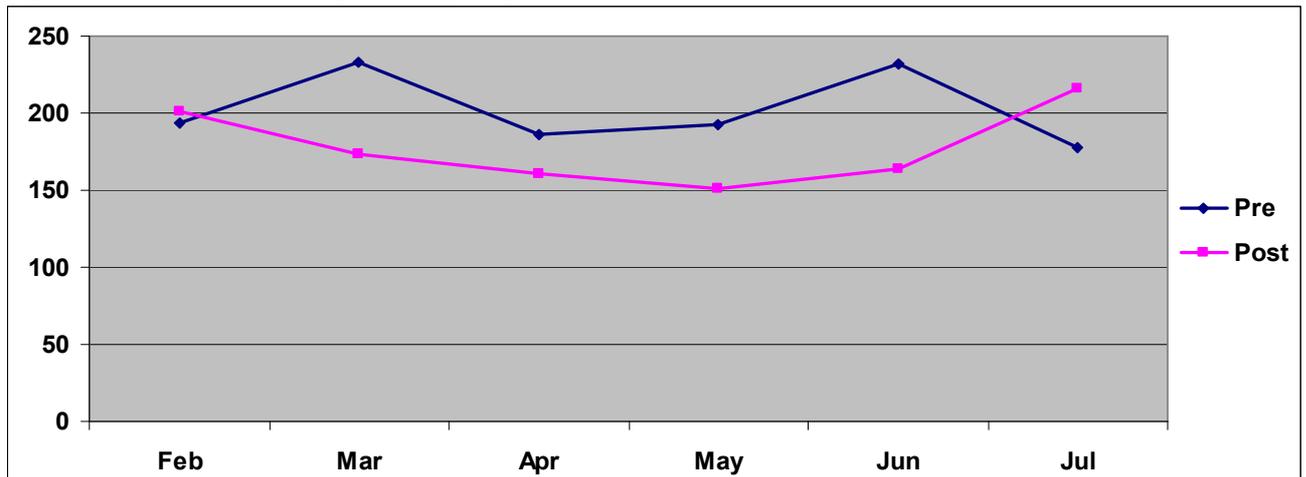
	February – July 2010 Pre-restriction	February – July 2011 Post-restriction	
RBTs	803	982	+ 179
Drink Driving Charges	24	21	- 3
Ratio	33.5:1	46.8:1	

General Police (CAD) Tasking

Wyndham police recorded an overall reduction in tasking of 12 percent post-restriction compared with the same period pre-restriction.

- From February to July 2011 (post-restriction), 1,066 CAD tasks were recorded, 150 less than for the same period pre-restriction (1,216 tasks).

Figure 10. Police tasking activity, Wyndham, pre and post-restriction

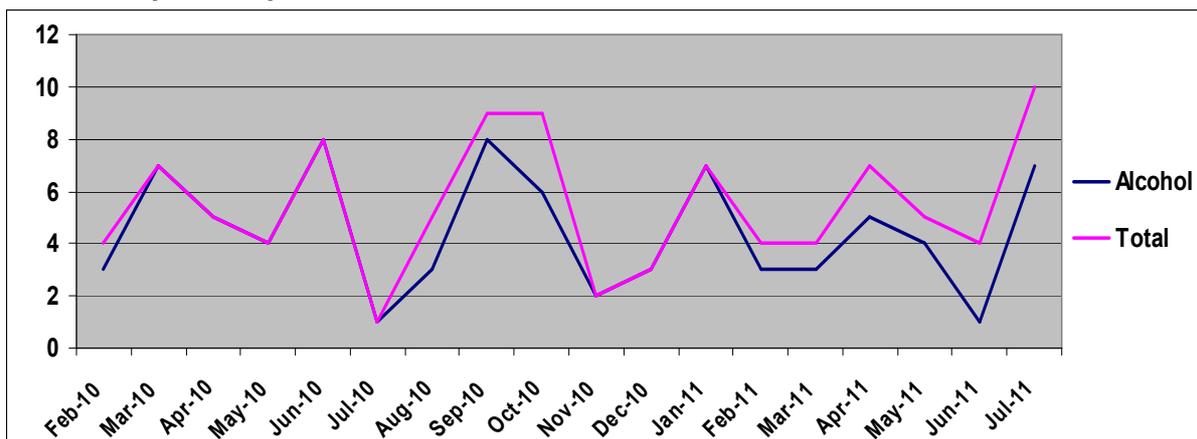


Verified Assault Offences

The total number of domestic and non-domestic assault offences recorded by Wyndham Police remained relatively stable in the six month pre and post-restriction periods.

- From February to July 2010 (pre-restriction), 29 verified assaults were recorded. This increased marginally to 34 for the same period post-restriction.

Figure 11. Total and alcohol-related assault offences reported to the Wyndham Police, pre and post-restriction



Despite the slight increase in the total number of domestic and non-domestic assaults, the proportion of alcohol-related offences dropped in the post-restriction period.

- Pre-restriction (February to July 2010), 28 out of the 29 recorded assault offences were alcohol-related (96.6 percent). In the same period post-restriction, the proportion of alcohol-related assault offences was 67.6 percent (23 out of 34).

Table 10. Alcohol-related assault offences reported to the Wyndham Police, pre and post-restriction

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	
Pre-restriction	3	7	5	4	8	1	28
Post-restriction	3	3	5	4	1	7	23
Difference Post	0	- 4	0	0	- 7	+ 6	- 5

For domestic assaults the number of cases reported to the Wyndham Police remained similar pre and post-restriction.

- A total of 22 domestic assault offences were recorded in the six month post-restriction period, compared with 21 pre-restriction.
- Pre-restriction, all 21 cases of domestic assault reported to the Wyndham Police were alcohol-related. While the proportion remained high post-restriction at 77.3 percent of all domestic assaults, there was a 19.9 percent decline in alcohol-related cases compared with pre-restriction.

Table 11. Alcohol-related domestic assault offences reported to the Wyndham Police, pre and post-restriction

		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
Pre-restriction	Alcohol-related DV	1	5	4	3	7	1	21
	Total DV	1	5	4	3	7	1	21
Post-restriction	Alcohol-related DV	2	3	5	3	0	4	17
	Total DV	2	4	6	3	2	5	22

Wyndham District Hospital

Qualitative

Staff at the Wyndham Hospital believe there has been a slight drop in the number of alcohol-related presentations occurring on Friday and Saturday nights since the restrictions were introduced. However, it was noted that the number of people presenting to the hospital after 10:30pm had increased substantially.

Quantitative

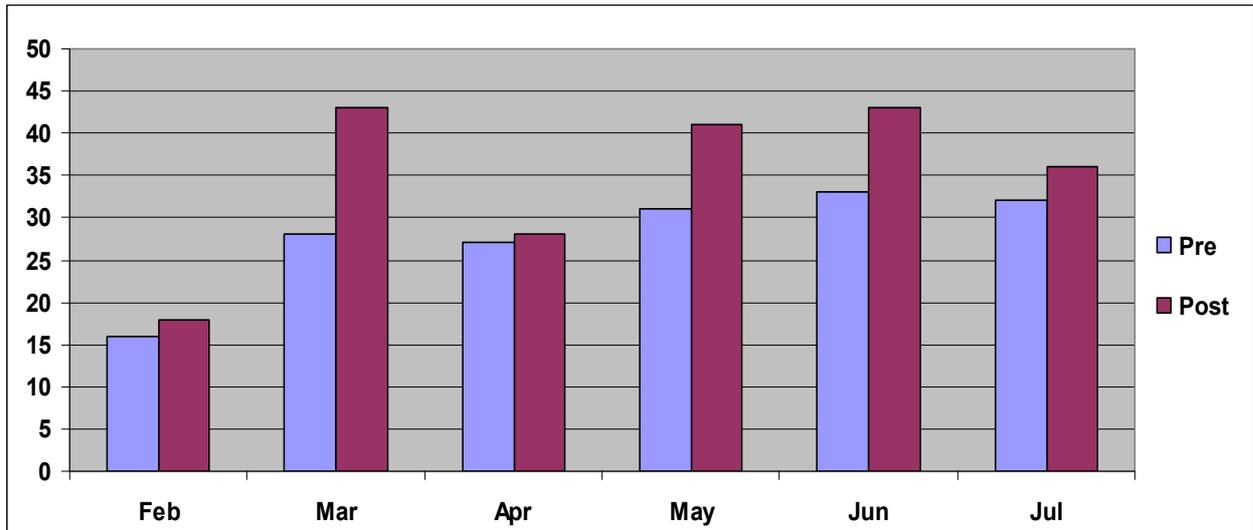
The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) provided data on ED presentations and triage codes for ED presentations. St John Ambulance provided ambulance callout data in Wyndham from February 2010 to July 2011.

Alcohol-related Emergency Department Presentations

For the six month period of February to July 2011 (post-restriction), the number of alcohol-related presentations to the Wyndham Hospital ED increased by 20.1 percent compared with the same period pre-restriction. The majority of presentations post-restriction were recorded during the day.

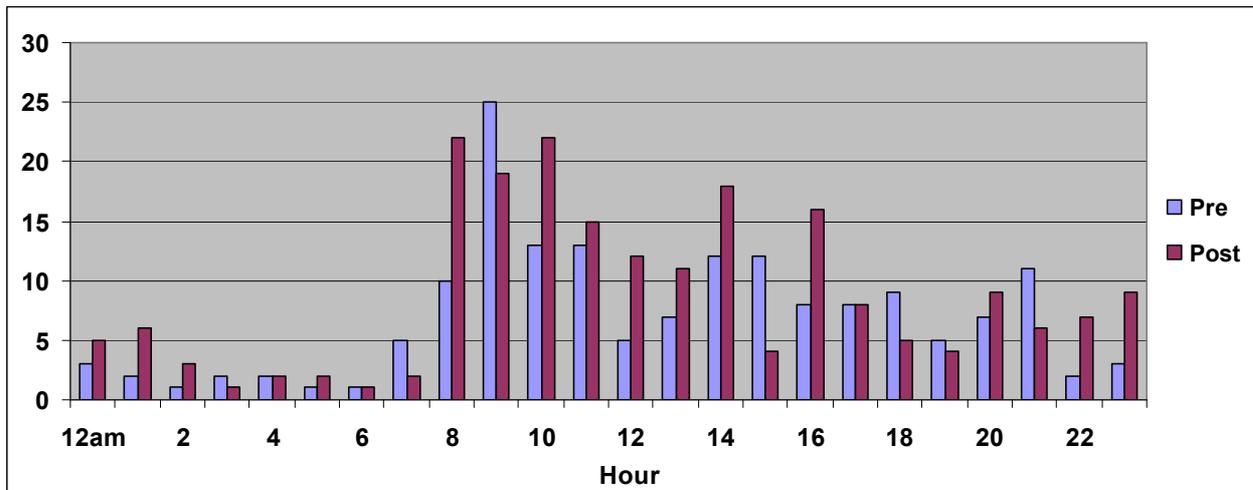
- There were 42 more alcohol-related presentations recorded at Wyndham Hospital post-restriction (February to July 2011) than for the same period pre-restriction (167 pre-restriction and 209 post-restriction).

Figure 12. Alcohol-related presentations to Wyndham Hospital, pre and post-restriction



- Wyndham Hospital ED reported a slight increase in alcohol-related presentations between midnight and 7:00am during the six month period post-restriction compared with pre-restriction (from 17 to 22 presentations).
- The greatest increase in the number of ED presentations occurred during the daylight hours of 8:00am to 4:00pm post-restriction (34 presentations).

Figure 13. Alcohol-related presentations to Wyndham Hospital by time of day, pre and post-restriction



Triage Categories

- From February to July 2011 (post-restriction), the number of alcohol-related presentations classified as category 4 and 5 increased by 22 percent (15 presentations) and 34 percent (37 presentations) respectively compared with the corresponding pre-restriction period.

- Post-restriction, there were no alcohol-related cases classified as triage category 1. In the same period pre-restriction, there were three category 1 presentations.
- Category 3 presentations decreased from 35 to 27 in the six months post-restriction. Category 2 presentations remained stable (five pre-restriction and six post-restriction).

Table 12. Alcohol-related presentations classified by triage category at Wyndham Hospital, pre and post-restriction

Triage Category	February to July 2010 Pre-restriction	February to July 2011 Post-restriction	Difference Pre / Post
1	3	0	- 3
2	5	6	+ 1
3	35	27	- 8
4	52	67	+ 15
5	72	109	+ 37
Total	167	209	+ 42

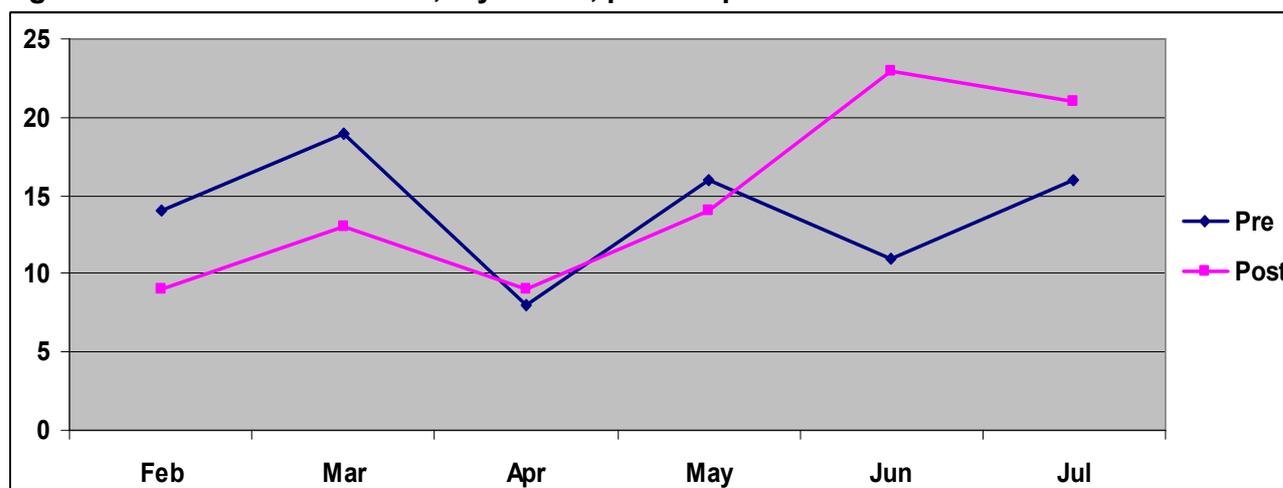
St John Ambulance - Wyndham

St John Ambulance records all call-outs but does not differentiate between alcohol-related and other callouts.

Overall, there were no substantial changes in the number of ambulance callouts completed in the six month period post-restriction (February to July 2011) compared with the corresponding period pre-restriction.

- From February to July 2010 (pre-restriction), there were a total of 84 ambulance callouts in Wyndham. This increased by five callouts in the same period post-restriction (89 in total).

Figure 14. Ambulance callouts, Wyndham, pre and post-restriction



- Day callouts (8:00am to 8:00pm) increased by seven in the post-restriction period, from 45 pre-restriction to 52 post-restriction.
- Night callouts (8:00pm to 8:00am) remained relatively stable pre and post-restriction (39 pre-restriction and 37 post-restriction).

Table 13. Ambulance callouts by month and time of day, Wyndham, pre and post-restriction

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
2010 Day	8	8	6	10	5	8	45
2011 Day	3	4	7	11	11	16	52
2010 Night	6	11	2	6	6	8	39
2011 Night	6	9	2	3	12	5	37

Ngnowar-Aerwah Sobering Up Centre and Night Patrol Services

Qualitative

The SUC noted that, during the dry season, client numbers are typically lower and therefore are not likely to provide an accurate reflection of the effectiveness of the restrictions in the first six months of implementation. However, there have been noticeable changes in the times that clients are presenting. Pre-restriction, the main influx of clients occurred at around 6:00pm. Post-restriction, clients are presenting later, at around 9:00pm to 10:00pm, missing the evening meal and are therefore considered at greater risk of ill-health. In some cases, people are attempting to enter the SUC after 1:00am.

Quantitative

The Ngnowar-Aerwah SUC provided presentation data for the 12 month period pre-restriction (February 2010 to January 2011) and the six month period post-restriction (February to July 2011).

- The total number of admissions to the Ngnowar Aerwah SUC more than doubled in the six month period post-restriction, increasing from 374 admissions pre-restriction (February to July 2010) to 897 post-restriction (February to July 2011).

Figure 15. Presentations to Wyndham Sobering Up Centre, pre and post-restriction

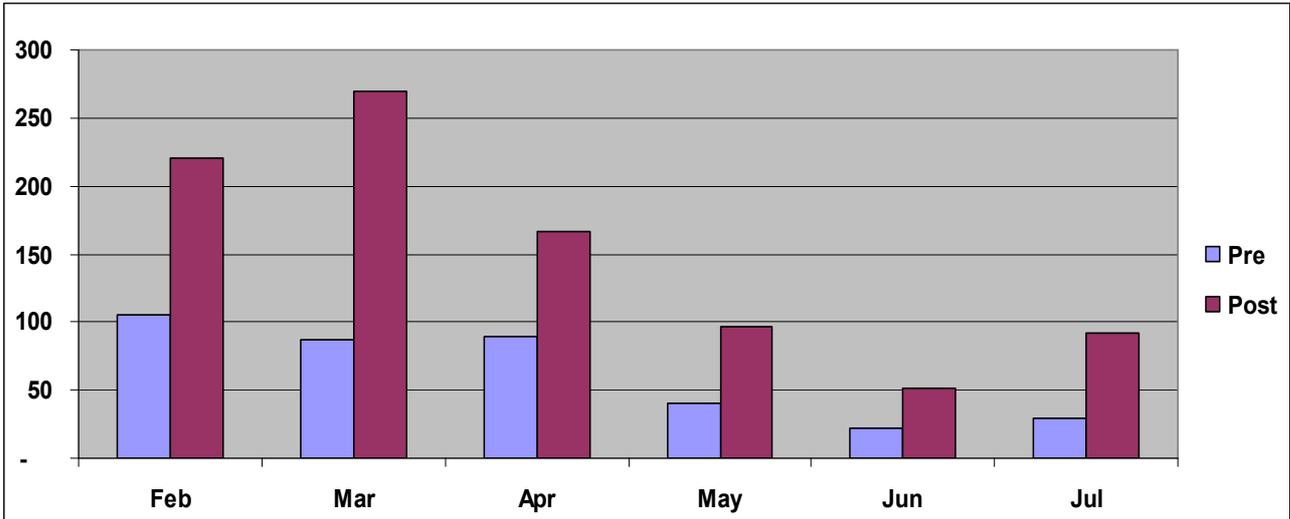
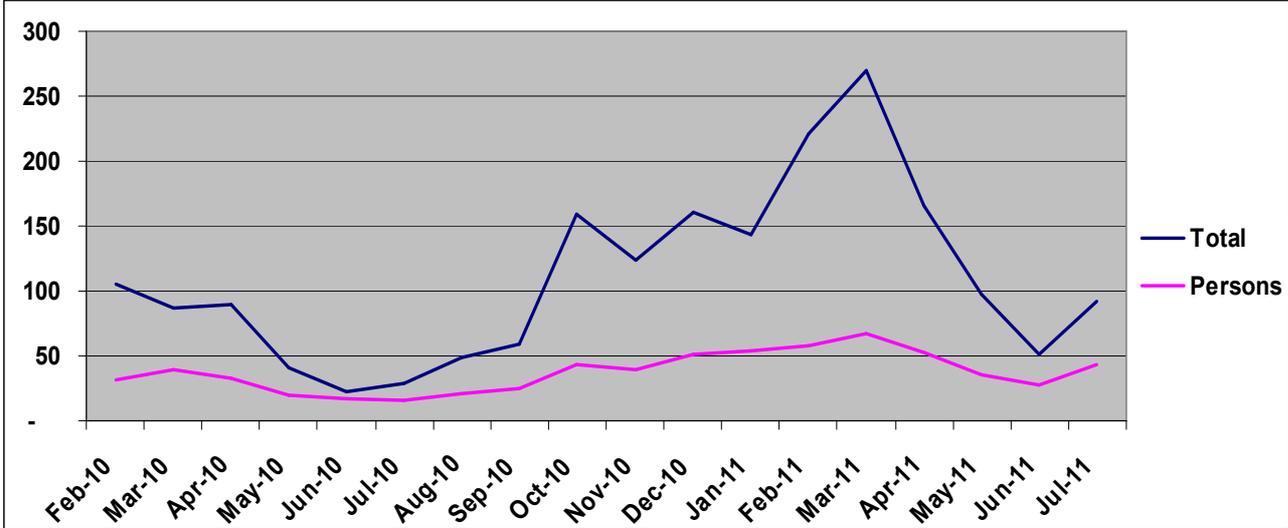


Figure 16. Wyndham Sobering Up Centre total presentations compared with the number of individuals presenting by month, pre and post-restriction



Information collected on the home community of people presenting to the Wyndham SUC for the six month period of February to July 2010 (pre-restriction) showed that, of the 374 presentations, over half were from the Warrayu Community (54 percent) and 18 percent were from Oombulgurri.

For the six month period post-restriction (February to July 2011), Warrayu and Oombulgurri residents continued to account for the majority of presentations to the SUC (39 percent and 27 percent respectively). Only two percent of admissions were Wyndham residents.

Figure 17. Wyndham SUC total presentations by location, pre-restriction

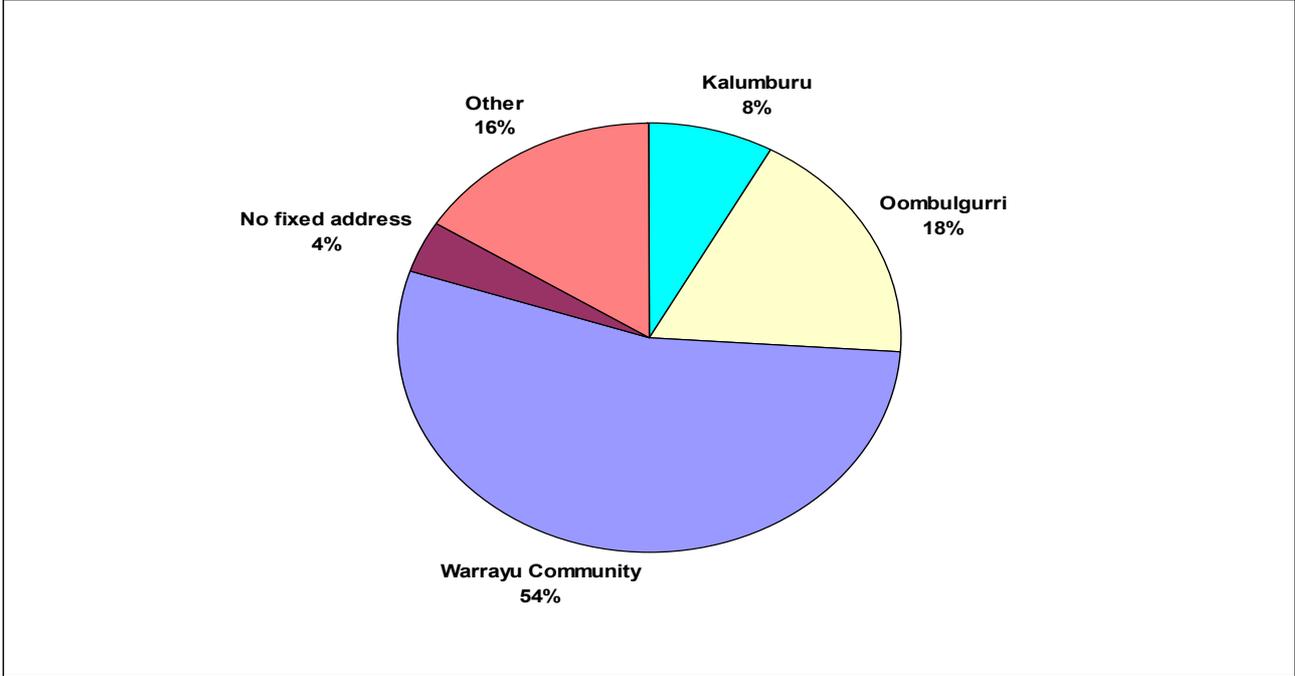
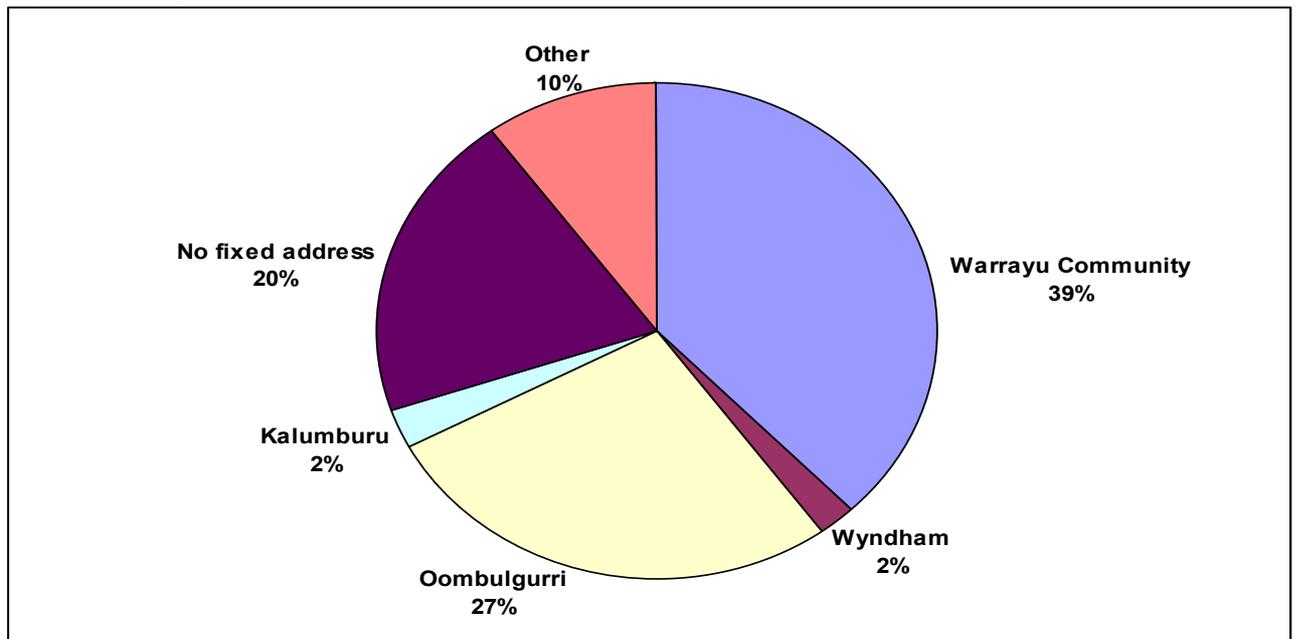


Figure 18. Wyndham SUC total presentations by location, post-restriction



Regional Services

Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service

Conversations conducted with staff from the Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service (KMHDS) based in Kununurra suggested that the restrictions have not had a significant impact on client numbers or the nature of presenting issues as yet, but this was also not expected within the first six months.

In general, the restrictions are perceived to have shifted alcohol-related problems to later at night, with an increase in anti-social issues such as noise and fighting. An increase in “nocturnal” patterns of drinking is thought to have coincided with the relocation of the Warmun community to Kununurra between March and July 2011. Changes in the type of alcohol being consumed post-restriction were also noted. A perceived increase in the purchase of one litre bottles of spirits, such as rum, is attributed to the restriction on the sale of full-strength beer.

Staff believed there were noticeable improvements in service delivery as a result of the no take-away sales on Sundays. Greater opportunity to access and engage with community members on Mondays is regarded as the main advantage to come from the restrictions. In particular, increased service delivery to males had occurred post-restriction.

From a general community perspective, the central part of town is considered to be quieter during the day than pre-restriction. However, staff felt that safety in the central district later at night had decreased due to the presentation of alcohol-related issues later at night.

An ongoing concern for staff surrounded the impact of alcohol-related issues on children aged 0-6 years. It is believed that the difficulties in reaching, engaging and monitoring this group warranted a more holistic family approach to service delivery. Income management was raised as a potential avenue to reduce the cycle of daily intoxication, which was believed to be facilitated by sly-grogging post-restriction.

Department for Child Protection

In the first six months of the restrictions, there has been no real change in client numbers or the nature of services provided by the Department for Child Protection (DCP) compared with pre-restriction. The introduction of no take-away sales on Sundays has resulted in quieter

home environments on Mondays, which in turn has created greater opportunities for service delivery in homes and access to high risk clients.

DCP believes the restrictions have shifted the drinking culture to later in the evenings. While there were now fewer party houses observed during the day, the number of party houses at night has increased and is considered to be more disruptive for children and surrounding houses.

Overcrowding in houses remains a significant issue post-restriction. A major concern associated with this is the limited alternative housing options for children who are consistently exposed to home environments with intoxicated adults, loud music and adult fighting. DCP states that this has a significant impact on school attendance and long-term educational outcomes.

Seasonal trends that indicated higher rates of domestic violence (DV) in the Wet (October/November to March/April) were expected to continue post-restriction. Despite the limited impact of the restrictions on child welfare over the first six months of implementation, it was considered important for the restrictions to be continued over a 12 month period to identify seasonal variation in case management.

In order for the alcohol restrictions to have positive impacts on child welfare, several suggestions were discussed:

- Income management is seen as a worthwhile strategy to reduce levels of daily intoxication and associated harms, provided this is implemented in conjunction with family support programs. The ability to effectively implement this in households where some adults were on income management and others were not was questioned, due to the likely increase in harassment within households.
- DCP identified a need for whole of community strategies to increase community safety. This includes the establishment of safe houses/areas, use of single dwelling restrictions, community education regarding health issues such as Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) for pregnant women and the implementation of prevention and community driven engagement strategies.
- The need for stricter measures around the sale of alcohol was also acknowledged.

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

Qualitative

Since the restrictions were introduced in February 2011, visible improvements in Kununurra's community environment were noted as the most significant change to have occurred. Less litter and fewer incidents of graffiti and vandalism on Sundays and Mondays in particular were attributed to the introduction of no take-away grog on Sundays.

Efforts to encourage people to place empty cans in wool bags provided in the community have been relatively effective with a reduction in litter from cans. Each month there are approximately 100 bags collected, with the number of cans in each bag estimated to cost approximately \$2,300 per bag.

Although a significant number of full-strength cans are being collected, more mid-strength cans have been noticed post-restriction. The number of wine and rum bottles collected has not changed significantly post-restriction.

It was noted that the Warmun community's temporary relocation to Kununurra as a result of flooding had a considerable impact on the environment in Kununurra between March and July 2011. The camp was described as "tin city" and has caused significant disruption for Kununurra residents.

Local government raised several concerns in relation to the liquor restrictions and alcohol-related problems in general. The number of children seen on the streets late at night is thought to have increased and was linked to a higher prevalence of drinking in houses and a lack of youth-friendly services and safe places available at night.

A negative consequence believed to be associated with the restrictions is an increase in racial tension within the town. There is very limited acceptance of alcohol-related problems being whole of community, with many choosing to blame Aboriginal people for the current restrictions. Perceptions of the restrictions as an “inconvenience” and unnecessary blanket response to reducing alcohol-related problems were thought to be held primarily by non-Aboriginal residents and those tourists unaware of the restrictions.

Another issue raised was the role of the taxi service in increasing accessibility to alcohol. Since the restriction had been in place, the frequency of alcohol runs appears to have increased, whereby taxis are seen to transport people between outlets to purchase daily limits multiple times. Prohibiting taxi services from entering drive-through bottleshops was suggested as a potential strategy to reduce alcohol runs. Scanning cards that could identify people attempting to purchase more than the daily limit of alcohol was discussed as another option for reducing accessibility.

Quantitative

Figures provided by the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley show fluctuating trends in the number of vandalism incidents recorded against Shire owned public buildings between February and July for the five year period from 2007 to 2011.

- Over the five year period from 2007 to 2011, the greatest number of vandalism incidents was recorded in 2009 at 27.
- The lowest number of vandalism incidents in the five year period occurred in the six month post-restriction period (February to July 2011), at 10.
- The majority of incidents were recorded as graffiti and various forms of public property damage.

Table 14. Vandalism incidents recorded by the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley, February to July, 2007 to 2011

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
2007	6	3	1	0	1	2	13
2008	11	2	5	2	0	0	20
2009	13	8	1	4	0	1	27
2010	0	5	7	4	0	0	16
2011	1	4	2	1	1	1	10

Department of Indigenous Affairs

Staff from the Department of Indigenous Affairs noted that the restrictions do not appear to have solved any of the alcohol-related problems that existed pre-restriction. It has, however, reduced the visibility of the drinking culture by shifting it from public spaces and drinking camps to houses. The cycle of drinking is also believed to have shifted to later at night due to the availability of full-strength beer, wine and spirits later in the day. As a result, houses are generally quieter during the day, but are more disruptive at night.

The no take-away grog on Sundays was highlighted as the main benefit to come from the restrictions in the first six months. In combination with the delayed purchase of full-strength alcohol, there was thought to be a greater window of opportunity for service provision and engagement with community members during the day.

Overall, it was believed that the impact of the restrictions on community welfare can be improved by shifting the timing of the restrictions on full-strength take-aways from 5:00pm to 3:00pm. It was argued that this would reduce some of the current problems associated with late night drinking in homes, including the impact on children by increasing the likelihood that they will be fed and are able to sleep.

Kununurra Visitor Centre

Overall, the restrictions have not had a significant impact on tourism in Kununurra. Visitor numbers have decreased slightly compared with previous years (down approximately 3,000-5,000 people), but this is not likely to be due to the restrictions.

The main issue associated with the restrictions from a tourism perspective is the inconvenience and frustration faced by tourists who arrive in Kununurra unaware of the restrictions. Despite this, the majority of tourists generally accepted the need for the restrictions and were happy to support continuation once it was explained.

Awareness raising strategies are considered essential to reduce the negative impact of the restrictions on tourists. Broader advertising outside of the Kimberley and dedicating a full page of information in the tourist guide to the occurrence is expected to assist tourists to better prepare in relation to purchasing alcohol.

Transport companies and Australia Post

Kununurra and Wyndham are serviced by four primary transport companies that bring goods in from Perth and Darwin – Toll Express, Centurion, McLeans Transport and Nexis.

The transport companies all agreed that there has been no extraordinary movement of alcohol, apart from the normal services provided to licensed venues in the Kununurra and Wyndham region. Some of the companies only accepted freight on account and it was difficult for private individuals to order alcohol through them.

Some companies reported that they had been approached by some clubs and individuals for prices on bringing alcohol in, but none had placed an order to date. Two of the companies reported bringing in pallets of alcohol for special events (weddings etc.), but this practice is limited and happened prior to the restrictions as well.

Staff from Australia Post in Kununurra noted that, while actual quantities of mail items that appeared to be alcohol were not recorded, there appears to have been no significant increase since the restrictions were introduced. Orders are tending to come in on certain days, but there is not a constant flow of alcohol coming into the town via post.

Staff from Australia Post in Wyndham agreed that there had been no real increase in mail items that appeared to be alcohol coming into town since the restrictions commenced.

Appendix 1

Mandated liquor restrictions in Kununurra and Wyndham as of 7 February 2011.

1. Having regard to condition 3(b) below, packaged liquor may only be sold and supplied on a day other than a Sunday, Good Friday, Christmas Day or ANZAC Day – from 12:00pm to 8:00 pm.
2. The sale and supply of liquor for consumption on premises is prohibited before 12:00pm, except where it is sold or supplied ancillary to a meal or to a lodger.
3. The sale and supply of packaged liquor may only be sold or supplied in the following quantities:
 - a. where the liquor contains less than 2.7 per cent concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius – in any quantity;
 - b. where the liquor contains greater than 2.7 per cent but no more than 7 per cent concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius – a maximum cumulative quantity of 11.5L per customer per day; and where the liquor contains greater than 3.5 per cent concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius that liquor can only be sold between 5:00pm and 8:00pm;
 - c. where the liquor contains greater than 7 per cent but no more than 15 per cent concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius – a maximum cumulative quantity of 1.5L per customer per day;
 - d. where the liquor contains greater than 15 per cent concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius – a maximum cumulative quantity of 1L per customer per day.

A person may purchase liquor in quantities provided for by (b) plus either (c) or (d) but not both. Further, a person is not precluded from purchasing liquor under only one of these provisions.

4. The sale and supply of packaged liquor is only permitted to a person who is present at the time of purchase on the licensed premises conducting the sale, unless that person is:
 - a. a person who resides outside of Western Australia or in an area of the State which is south of the 200 south; or
 - b. a liquor merchant in which case the sale is not subject to the quantity restrictions set out in condition 3; or
 - c. a station owner or pastoralist and only on the conditions that:
 - i. the liquor has been pre-ordered at least 24 hours in advance of pick-up/delivery; and
 - ii. the licensee maintains on the licensed premises, a register of purchases, which must be made available for inspection at the request of an authorised officer; and
 - iii. the register must contain the following information in relation to the station owner or pastoralist: Name, Address and Address to which the liquor is being delivered/taken.

The sale to a station owner or pastoralist is not subject to the quantity restrictions set out in condition 3.

5. Where a packaged liquor product is available from a manufacturer in a non-glass container, licensees are prohibited from selling the product in a glass container.

6. Licensees are required to submit returns of alcohol sales data, by product type and quantity, to the Director of Liquor Licensing every four months with the first return required by 30 October 2011. The return must contain the following information:
 - a. Total amount paid or payable to the licensee and the quantity supplied in respect of:
 - i. Low alcohol liquor (2.7% ethanol by volume or less)
 - ii. Mid strength alcohol liquor (2.8% to 3.5% ethanol by volume)
 - iii. Full strength alcohol liquor (3.6% ethanol by volume or more)
 - b. The information is to be provided under the headings of the following product types: wine, beer and spirits (as defined in section 3 of the Act), and pre-packaged pre-mixed alcohol beverages generally known as 'ready-to-drinks (RTDs).



Government of **Western Australia**
Drug and Alcohol Office