

# Banned Drinker Register Monthly Report – December 2020

This report presents activity data related to the Banned Drinker Register (BDR), Banned Drinker Orders (BDOs) and related therapeutic treatment for the month of December 2020. The BDR commenced full implementation on 1 September 2017.

## Section 1: Banned Drinker Activity

### Point of Sale Transactions

There were 503,503 BDR-related point of sale transactions at takeaway outlets in December (Table 1). Of these, there were 535 (0.11%) refusals due to the person being on the BDR. As of 31 December 2020, there have been 22,697 transactions ever declined because the person was on the BDR<sup>1</sup>.

Table 1: Count of takeaway alcohol point of sale BDR-related<sup>2</sup> transactions by region, outcome and month<sup>3</sup>

	2020					
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Darwin</b>	<b>213,146</b>	<b>216,726</b>	<b>211,564</b>	<b>223,809</b>	<b>199,421</b>	<b>225,884</b>
Sale	212,856	216,436	211,310	223,544	199,211	225,619
No sale	290	290	254	265	210	265
<b>Palmerston</b>	<b>92,386</b>	<b>88,124</b>	<b>82,831</b>	<b>89,389</b>	<b>77,989</b>	<b>91,870</b>
Sale	92,253	88,031	82,751	89,273	77,894	91,789
No sale	133	93	80	116	95	81
<b>Alice Springs</b>	<b>55,715</b>	<b>57,058</b>	<b>56,416</b>	<b>58,784</b>	<b>52,731</b>	<b>56,564</b>
Sale	55,683	57,033	56,379	58,759	52,707	56,523
No sale	32	25	37	25	24	41
<b>Katherine</b>	<b>24,277</b>	<b>25,190</b>	<b>23,667</b>	<b>23,948</b>	<b>21,265</b>	<b>21,905</b>
Sale	24,264	25,178	23,662	23,932	21,246	21,888
No sale	13	12	5	16	19	17
<b>Tennant Creek</b>	<b>12,048</b>	<b>11,636</b>	<b>10,626</b>	<b>10,885</b>	<b>9,047</b>	<b>10,934</b>
Sale	12,026	11,630	10,614	10,869	9,013	10,918
No sale	22	6	12	16	34	16
<b>NT Balance</b>	<b>101,618</b>	<b>102,154</b>	<b>96,346</b>	<b>97,683</b>	<b>88,430</b>	<b>96,346</b>
Sale	101,390	101,938	96,187	97,552	88,306	96,231
No sale	228	216	159	131	124	115
<b>NT</b>	<b>499,190</b>	<b>500,888</b>	<b>481,450</b>	<b>504,498</b>	<b>448,883</b>	<b>503,503</b>
Sale	498,472	500,246	480,903	503,929	448,377	502,968
No sale	718	642	547	569	506	535

Source: Criminal Justice Research and Statistics Unit, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice; Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch, Department of Health.

<sup>1</sup> This includes transactions in August 2017 prior to the full implementation of the BDR in all regions.

<sup>2</sup> This table counts all transactions where there is a sale and all transactions where there is no sale because the person is on the BDR.

<sup>3</sup> The content of this table has been updated and should not be compared to previous editions of this report.

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## Banned Drinker Register

For the 3,617 individuals (Table 2) with active bans on 31 December 2020, a police ban was the most common reason for being on the BDR, accounting for 63% of all banned persons.

**Table 2: Count of persons on the BDR by pathway as at 31 December 2020<sup>1</sup>**

	Total
<b>Police pathway</b>	<b>2,283</b>
Protective Custody <sup>2</sup>	824
Alcohol Related Offence <sup>3</sup>	1,173
Alcohol Protection Order <sup>4</sup>	0
Domestic Violence Order	27
Infringement <sup>5</sup>	233
Contravention-Breach of Ban	26
<b>Courts pathway</b>	<b>979</b>
<b>Corrections pathway</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>BDR Registrar pathway</b>	<b>245</b>
Self-Referral	77
Authorised Person Referral	168
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,617</b>

Source: Criminal Justice Research and Statistics Unit, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice; Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch, Department of Health.

<sup>1</sup> Individuals with an active ban at the end of the month and are reported by their most recent ban issued. See Explanatory Notes for an explanation of bans and BDOs. Data extracted 5/1/2021; this data is accurate as of the date of extraction only and may change in future reports.

<sup>2</sup> Includes first-time BDOs and Contravention-Protective Custody.

<sup>3</sup> Includes first-time BDOs and Contravention-Alcohol Related Offence.

<sup>4</sup> Persons on Alcohol Protection Orders were migrated to the BDR on 1 September 2017. No further APOs are being issued and so this category will decline and may be removed in future publications.

<sup>5</sup> Includes first-time BDOs and Contravention-Infringements.

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## Ban appeals

There were no ban appeals in December 2020.

## Reductions in ban length requested/granted

In December 2020, seven persons who entered the BDR through the self-referral pathway requested and were granted a revocation of their order. No requests were received nor granted for a reduction in ban length from the completion of a therapeutic support program.

## Income Management

As of 31 December 2020, there have been 161 income management notices ever issued by the BDR Registrar to the Department of Human Services (DHS).

## Section 2: Assessment and Therapeutic Support

There were 166 assessments completed and 140 therapeutic support episodes commenced in Government and Non-Government specialist alcohol and other drug treatment services during December (Table 3), where alcohol was the principal drug of concern.

**Table 3: Count of assessment and therapeutic support episodes of care commenced by month where alcohol is the principal drug of concern**

	2020					
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Assessments Completed	222	199	256	211	190	166
Therapeutic Support Episodes Commenced	260	209	190	209	186	140

Source: Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch, Department of Health.

Of the episodes reported in Table 3, there were 38 assessments completed and 17 therapeutic support episodes commenced in Government and Non-Government specialist alcohol and other drug treatment services during December (Table 4) where the person self-identified to the service provider as being on the BDR.

**Table 4: Count of assessments and therapeutic support episodes of care commenced by month where the person self-identified as being on the BDR**

	2020					
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Assessments Completed	26	31	64	85	60	38
Therapeutic Support Episodes Commenced	14	26	34	41	42	17

Source: Top End Health Service, Department of Health; Central Australia Health Service, Department of Health; Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch, Department of Health.

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## Section 3: Explanatory Notes

### Banned Drinker Register (BDR)

An identification system operating in outlets wherever takeaway alcohol can be purchased. The system identifies people who are banned from purchasing alcohol and prevents their purchase of alcohol at a takeaway outlet.

### Point of Sale transactions

The verification of an individual's identification using the scanning equipment and checked against the BDR at the Point of Sale (POS).

There are two types of transaction outcomes (see Table 1):

- 'Sale' – a transaction that resulted in a sale.
- 'No sale' – a transaction that did not result in a sale because the purchaser was on the BDR.

All transactions are checked against the BDR.

### Ban and Banned Drinker Order (BDO)

A ban prohibits an adult from purchasing, possessing or consuming takeaway alcohol during the period for which the ban is in force.

A court may make a ban a condition of an order; this is not a BDO. A BDO is a specific type of ban issued by either the BDR Registrar or by Police.

Persons may receive a ban for the following reasons:

- Being charged with an alcohol related offence.
- Being the defendant on an alcohol related domestic violence order.
- Any combination of three alcohol related protective custodies or alcohol infringement notices in two years.
- Having an alcohol prohibition condition on a court order (including child protection orders), bail or parole order.
- By decision of the BDR Registrar after being referred by an authorised person such as a doctor, nurse or child protection worker, or a family member or carer.
- Self-referral for any reason.

All persons with bans are registered on the BDR.

### Breach

Occurs when a person who is on the BDR has an alcohol related event recorded by Police.

### Assessment

A clinical assessment will involve taking a person's full alcohol use history as well as undertaking a biopsychosocial assessment and health check of the person.

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## Income Management

Income Management is where a portion of a person's welfare payment is income managed, and cannot be used to access cash, alcohol, gambling services, tobacco or pornography. Income Management orders made by the BDR quarantines 70% of a person's welfare payments.

Income Management notices are issued by the BDR Registrar and orders are subsequently made by the Department of Human Services. The numbers in this report are the most recently available at the time of publication.

## Therapeutic Support

Includes a range of therapies, including:

- Alcohol counselling and support.
- Alcohol brief interventions that aim to initiate a change in unhealthy or risky behaviour, such as alcohol misuse.
- Motivational interviewing.
- Supervised alcohol withdrawal and detoxification from alcohol.
- Intensive alcohol and other drug treatment in a community setting.
- Structured day programs or group therapy.
- Residential alcohol and other drug treatment.
- Other options, including mutual aid (e.g. 12 step programs and peer mentoring).

Note that there is no requirement that people inform treatment providers that they are on the BDR, so Table 4 only includes clients who self-identify as being on the BDR at the time of assessment or therapeutic support commencement in a specialist alcohol and other drug treatment service.

## Appeal

A request to the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT) to review particular BDR related decisions. NTCAT may agree with the basis of the review, in which case the ban(s) will be removed, or may not agree with the basis of the review and the ban(s) remain in place.

## Limitations of report

BDR reporting involves new processes and multiple administrative data collection systems. In some cases, these processes and systems are still evolving and may contain errors. Consequently, the data extraction, manipulation and analysis used in the production of this report are also evolving over time and data validation is ongoing. The data from these systems used in this report are subject to amendment over time. The format of this report may also change in future releases.

Caution should be taken in the interpretation of the data. For example, it cannot be assumed that having a ban caused a person to commence therapeutic support. Also, particular assessments and therapeutic support cases, such as those provided by a private GP, are not counted in this report.