Information for Clinicians

- A clinical assessment will take approximately two hours and includes a health check, a full alcohol history and a biopsychosocial assessment of the person.
- A person does not have to undertake an assessment or the recommended therapeutic support.
- Not undertaking the recommended therapeutic support means certain bans cannot be reduced.
- A person may access an assessment at any time even if they are not on the BDR.

**What is involved in a clinical 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. This can include health checks such as blood tests, cognitive tests, and consideration of underlying chronic health conditions, and seeking information on the home and support system of a person.

The assessment takes around two hours to complete.

**What does the clinician have to do as part of the assessment?**
The clinician will do a health check, an alcohol and drug history check and a biopsychosocial assessment of the person. The clinician will fill in the assessment form that will guide the BDR Registrar in their decision making around a person’s alcohol use and determine if their alcohol use is causing harm to the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves or other people. The assessment will also recommend a therapeutic support program for the person based on their circumstances and whether a Banned Drinker Order (BDO) should be made.

**When is a clinical assessment required?**
A person who goes onto the BDR will be able to access an assessment through the BDR Registrar’s office or directly with the Assessment and Withdrawal services provided by the Health Services.

A person can choose to undertake an assessment at any time even if they are not on the BDR or have already completed a ban.

**What if a person refuses to undertake an assessment?**
A person will not be forced to undertake an assessment. In the case of authorised person referrals, not attending the assessment will not prevent a person from being put on the BDR if the BDR Registrar determines on the weight of the evidence that they should.

**Can a person be detained during an assessment?**
No. The usual protocols around managing voluntary assessment apply.

**What is a therapeutic support?**
Therapeutic supports can include a range of therapies from counselling right up to residential rehabilitation.

The clinical assessment will determine what therapeutic support is best suited to each person’s situation and recommend a suitable program.

Any existing service that provides alcohol therapeutic support in the Northern Territory can be recommended.

**What happens if a person does not finish their therapeutic support program as recommended?**
They will not be eligible to reduce their ban.

A person who does not finish their program and wants to reduce their ban length will need to seek advice from the BDR Registrar.

**Can a person source their own therapeutic support to reduce their ban?**
A person is welcome to organise their own therapeutic support if they wish, however if they wish to have their ban time reduced, they will need to provide evidence of participation in and completion of a suitable therapeutic support.
Can a person be detained while undergoing a therapeutic support?
No. The usual protocols around managing voluntary withdrawal and treatment apply.

Where does a clinician find the forms?
The forms (including the assessment form) will be located at www.banneddrinkerregister.nt.gov.au.

What interaction does the Clinician have with the BDR Registrar?
The clinician will provide the results of their assessment, including their recommendation for therapeutic support to the BDR Registrar. The Registrar may need to speak to the clinician to clarify any comments or seek additional information if required.

Will a clinician be asked to justify their assessment during an appeal?
A person who does not agree with being placed on the BDR Registrar can ask for their case to be reviewed by Northern Territory Civil Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT). In that instance, the BDR Registrar will appear before the Tribunal if requested. The clinician may be requested to appear to clarify issues raised within the assessment. This will be similar to the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment (AMT) Tribunal.

How does a person access an assessment or therapeutic supports?
More information on seeking an assessment or therapeutic support is available online at www.banneddrinkerregister.nt.gov.au and needs to be emailed to BannedDrinkerRegister.doh@nt.gov.au.