



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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Crime delay continues under Labor

Today's announcement of a recruitment drive for Auxiliary police officers, which are sworn members of the Northern Territory Police Force, lacks detail and will not immediately address the alcohol related crime rates currently plaguing the Territory.

In response, the Leader of the Opposition Gary Higgins, has called on the government to advise what powers the newly recruited Auxiliaries will have to conduct bottleshop duties, known as Point of Sale Interventions (POSIs) and Temporary Beat Locations (TBLs).

"Today's announcement lacks detail and does not address the need for an immediate response to stemming the supply of alcohol and secondary supply in the Territory, including in remote areas.

"This announcement fails to address the critical shortage of police resources in remote locations.

"What is the government doing about the displacement of people up the track to Darwin?

"We are already seeing continuing movement from people who are looking for improved housing and other services.

"This Auxiliary policing model was a 2016 election commitment by the CLP, why has it taken Labor 19 months to announce this policy?

"As the rates of alcohol related crime continue to soar across the Territory, the Opposition continues to question the government's priorities.

"Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek crime is out of control because of the vacuum without POSIs.

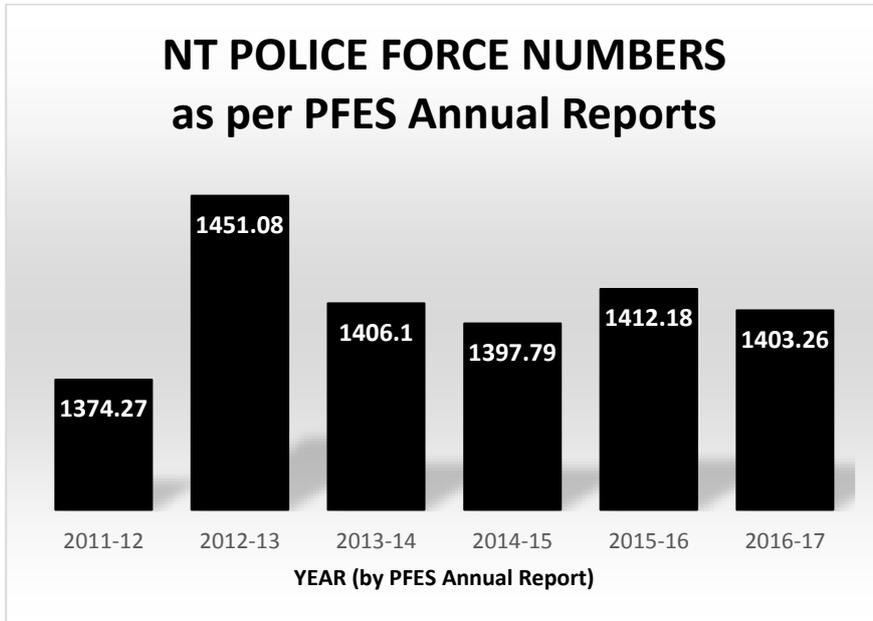
"Labor has been in power for 19 months and alcohol related assaults are up over 19 per cent in the most recent crime statistics report.

"Territorians do not feel safe and the Banned Drinker Register (BDR) continues to fail as a standalone tool.

"In addition, the Minister for Police must advise how he will support the Police Force to recruit and train these new police.

“Recruiting, training and appointing Auxiliaries will take at least a year by government’s own admission and will draw on existing police officers to conduct training, be it at the Darwin Police College or in Alice Springs,” said Mr Higgins.

ENDS



YEAR	POLICE
2011-12	1374.27
2012-13	1451.08
2013-14	1406.1
2014-15	1397.79
2015-16	1412.18
2016-17	1403.26

ABOVE: *NT Police numbers as reported in the NTPFES Annual Report.*

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