



Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Recommendation

275. Northern Territory Government review of liquor legislation

*That the Northern Territory Government review its liquor legislation in the light of the size of the Aboriginal population of the Territory and its needs, and include in such a review the desirability of appointing at least one Aboriginal person to be a member of the Northern Territory Liquor Commission.*¹

Background²	The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody noted a high rate of alcohol use and misuse among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the Northern Territory. As a part of the solution, Recommendation 275 recognised the importance of having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives represented in policymaking.
Intent	Review liquor legislation and appoint an Aboriginal person to the Northern Territory Liquor Commission.
Responsibility	Northern Territory Government.
Key action taken	
2005 Review³	Recommendation 275 was not assessed as it was not relevant to Victoria.
2018 Review⁴	Deloitte assessed Recommendation 275 as fully implemented in the Northern Territory.
Since then⁵	The Northern Territory Liquor Commission is an independent statutory authority established in 2018. It has extensive powers to regulate liquor licensing in the Northern Territory. The government described the commission as ‘one component of sweeping alcohol changes which have taken place since 2018 to achieve the most significant alcohol reforms in the Territory's history’. The commission has nine members representing the legal, health and industry sectors, including a renowned Arrente woman with extensive experience in public health and Indigenous health promotion.

¹ *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Final Report, 1991) vol 4, 282 ('RCIADIC').

² *Ibid* vol 4, 282 [32.2.22].

³ Aboriginal Justice Forum (Vic), Department of Justice (Vic), *Victorian Implementation Review of the Recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Review Report, October 2005) vol 1, 257-258 ('2005 Review').

⁴ Deloitte Access Economics, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Report, August 2018) 564-565 ('2018 Review').

⁵ Attorney General's Department (NT), 'Liquor Commission', *Attorney-General's Department* (Web page, 27 May 2025) <<https://agd.nt.gov.au/regulatory-services/liquor-commission#:~:text=The%20Liquor%20Commission%20has%20extensive%20powers%20under%20the,liquor%20licence%20applications%20and%20the%20determination%20of%20complaints.>> ('Liquor Commission'). Giovanni Torre, 'New Appointments to Northern Territory Liquor Commission to Preside Over Reforms', *National Indigenous Times* (online, 2 March 2023) <<https://nit.com.au/02-03-2023/5143/new-appointments-to-northern-territory-liquor-commission-to-preside-over-reforms-to-system>>.

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Evidence of impact

Authorising documents	None identified.
Outputs	None identified.
Outcomes	None identified.
Community views	None identified.

Related recommendations

	None identified.
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Assessment summary⁶

Recommendation 275 was not relevant to Victoria.

Bibliography

Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus (Project Team, In Person, 16 August 2023)

Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group (Project Team, In Person, 4 November 2022)

Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group (Project Team, Online, 14 July 2023)

Aboriginal Justice Forum (Vic), Department of Justice (Vic), *Victorian Implementation Review of the Recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Review Report, October 2005)

Attorney General's Department (NT), 'Liquor Commission', *Attorney-General's Department* (Web page, 27 May 2025) <[Deloitte Access Economics, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* \(Report, August 2018\)](https://agd.nt.gov.au/regulatory-services/liquor-commission#:~:text=The%20Liquor%20Commission%20has%20extensive%20powers%20under%20the,liquor%20licence%20applications%20and%20the%20determination%20of%20complaints.>></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (Final Report, 1991)

Torre, Giovanni, 'New Appointments to Northern Territory Liquor Commission to Preside Over Reforms', *National Indigenous Times* (online, 2 March 2023) <[⁶ Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group \(Project Team, In Person, 4 November 2022\) \('*Working Group Meeting \(4 November 2022\)*'\); Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group \(Project Team, Online, 14 July 2023\) \('*Working Group Meeting \(14 July 2023\)*'\); Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus \(Project Team, In Person, 16 August 2023\) \('*Aboriginal Justice Caucus Meeting \(16 August 2023\)*'\).](https://nit.com.au/02-03-2023/5143/new-appointments-to-northern-territory-liquor-commission-to-preside-over-reforms-to-system>></p></div><div data-bbox=)