Indigenous Perspectives on Alcohol Restrictions

Some Communities were concerned if Palm Island’s restrictions were declared invalid by the High Court that restrictions in other places in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia could go as far. These communities are supportive of the restrictions.

However, many, such as Ms Maloney see the restrictions as an unfair limit to their freedoms and decide how to live their lives.

While the decision of the High Court is final, careful consideration of the perspectives of those for and against alcohol restrictions, as outlined in the table below, is important for Federal, State and Territory Governments in considering whether they will reform their laws to ensure the right balance between restrictions, rights and freedoms of Indigenous Communities.

An article in the Townsville Bulletin on 14 January 2016 stated that the Queensland Government is conducting a major review into alcohol restrictions in Queensland.

FOR ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS

Jenny Macklin, Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister

Aboriginal leaders have made it clear to me that alcohol abuse and the violence that comes with it is destroying their families.

Glen Doherty, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Plants to reach community consultation. Restrictions should be removed from communities, they should be able to choose it or not. Does not want to continue the paternalism of the past.

Professor Marcia Langton, University of Melbourne

Reduces hospitalisation for alcohol related accidents. Does not believe that alcohol restrictions are a violation of human rights.

Alistair Lay, Mayor of Palm Island

Paternalistic policy that can be compared to the excuse used to remove indigenous children from their families. That alcohol management ‘kills’ self-determination and economic prosperity. Indigenous people needed to determine their own futures.

Warren Mundine, Federal Indigenous Affairs

Fleely available grog is a significant cause of disease in Indigenous communities.

Campbell Newman, Premier of Queensland

Simply say the policy is not at all appropriate.

Derek Wajira, Mayor of Palm Island

Alcohol ban is essential and links the need for alcohol management, the need for employment. If more people work they will no longer have a need to drink.

Ethel Robertson, Coordinator of Women’s Shelter

Alcohol restrictions discriminate against the rights of the people of Palm Island.

AGAINST ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS

Joan Monica Maloney, Human Rights Commissioner

Islander Affairs

Racial discrimination in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Words are power. A small change in a law can cause great change in society. If a state or territory were to remove an alcohol restriction, it would send a strong signal that Indigenous people have a right to choose.

We have a right to make our own choices. We are not animals. We are people just like you. We are not sick. We are rational beings who have the right to make our own decisions.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.

We are not animals. We are people just like you. We do not need to be controlled.
Racial Discrimination 1900 - 2016

1915____________________________________________________________
1945____________________________________________________________
1948____________________________________________________________
1969___________________________________________________________
1993____________________________________________________________
1994____________________________________________________________
2004___________________________________________________________
2004 onward ______________________________________________________

3 Adapted from above: Deaths during WWII due to Nazi policies – Jews: up to 6 million, Soviet Civilians: around 3 million (including 1.3 Soviet Jewish civilians, who are included in the 6 million figure for Jews), Non-Jewish Polish civilians: around 1.8 million, Serb civilians: 312,000, People with disabilities living in institutions: up to 250,000, Roma (Gypsies): 150,000 to 220,000, Jehovah’s Witnesses: Around 10,000, Repeat criminal offenders and “asocials”: at least 70,000, Homosexuals: hundreds, possibly thousands (possibly also counted in part under the 70,000 repeat offenders and asocials).

What is the process for a nation state to agree to be legally bound by an international treaty?

A ____________________ will ____________________ a treaty (and become a signatory), which means they ____________________ the treaty, but are not yet legally bound by it.

A nation state that signs a treaty may then ____________________ the treaty which means they agree to be ____________________ by it. ____________________ is the same as ratification, except the nation state does not become a signatory before agreeing to be legally bound by the treaty.

A state that has ratified or acceded to a treaty is known as a ____________________.