

## LIQUOR ACT

### **NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF LIQUOR LICENCE**

Melaleuca Refugee Centre Torture & Trauma Survivor's Service of the Northern Territory Inc hereby gives notice it has applied to the Director of Liquor Licensing for the grant of a liquor licence with a Community Event Authority for their proposed premises to be known as Mela Kulcha located at 24 McLachlan Street, Darwin, NT, 0800.

#### LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION

It is proposed that the liquor licence trading hours be:

Monday to Sunday from 17:00 hours to 23:59 hours.

The applicant will only trade in accordance with section 47(1)(p) of the *Liquor Act 2019 - Community Event Authority*, which authorises the licensee to sell liquor to patrons at events organised by the licensee on a regular but infrequent basis for consumption on or in the licensed premises."

The proposed trading hours allow the applicant flexibility when holding events that they wish to sell alcohol at and are not for everyday trading. In accordance with Section 50(1) of the *Liquor Regulations* the licensee must give written notice of the event to the Director at least 14 business days before holding the event.

#### Objections to the liquor licence application

An objection may only be made on the following grounds:

- (a) that issuing the licence or authority, varying the conditions, substituting other premises or making the material alteration would adversely affect:
  - i. the amenity of the neighbourhood of the licensed premises or proposed licensed premises; or
  - ii. the health, education, public safety or social conditions in the community of the licensed premises or proposed licensed premises;
- (b) that the applicant is not a fit and proper person.

Only the following may make an objection:

- (a) a person residing or working in the neighbourhood of the licensed premises or proposed licensed premises;
- (b) the owner or occupier of land in the neighbourhood of the licensed premises or proposed licensed premises;
- (c) a local council of the local government area where the licensed premises or proposed licensed premises are located;
- (d) a Member of the Legislative Assembly;
- (e) a police officer or employee of the Police Force, acting in that capacity;

- (f) a member or employee of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, established under the Fire and Emergency Act 1996, acting in that capacity;
- (g) an Agency or public authority that performs functions relating to public amenities, including health, education and public safety;
- (h) a charity or a community-based organisation or body.

The objection must be lodged with the Director within 14 days of the publication of the notice and:

- (a) be in writing or in a form approved by the Director that is suitable for someone unable to effectively communicate in writing; and
- (b) be signed by or on behalf of the person or body making the objection; and
- (c) set out the grounds of the objection and the facts relied on to support those grounds.

#### Applicant's right to respond to objection

The Director must provide the applicant with any objections lodged and notice of their right to respond to the objection.

The *Liquor Act 2019* requires a notice to be published of the application along with a detailed description of the business proposed to be conducted, how to obtain a copy of the Community Impact Assessment and how to lodge an objection to the liquor licence. Further information can be obtained via telephone to Licensing NT (08) 8999 1800 or via email [DirectorLiquorLicensing@nt.gov.au](mailto:DirectorLiquorLicensing@nt.gov.au)

Dated 30 May 2026

# Public interest and community impact assessment summary

## Approved form under sections 49 to 52 of the *Liquor Act 2019*

### Before you fill in the form

This form has been approved by the Director of Liquor Licensing under section 317 of the Act.

Type your answers or use clear, printed writing. We may make this information available to the public, so you should not include people's sensitive or personal information in the form.

Attach extra pages if your answer/s don't fit into the space provided.

If you need help with this form, call Licensing NT on 08 8999 1800 or email

[LiquorLicensing.DITT@nt.gov.au](mailto:LiquorLicensing.DITT@nt.gov.au).

Fields marked with asterisk (*) are mandatory.	
<b>Information about your application</b>	
<b>Applicant name*</b>	MELALEUCA REFUGEE CENTRE TORTURE & TRAUMA SURVIVOR'S SERVICE OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INC (ABN 50 116 495 405)
<b>Brief description of the application, including the proposed nature of the business and authorities sought*</b>	The applicant is an incorporated association that supports humanitarian entrants, migrants and people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds settling in the Northern Territory. MelaKulcha is our social enterprise restaurant and café. We seek a liquor licence with a Community Event Authority (Very Low Risk) to host weekly or bi-weekly small cultural community events on our private outdoor premises. Each event allows a different multicultural community to showcase their cuisine using our licensed commercial kitchen. Maximum 200 attendees per event. Events run 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm. Food will be served, and alcohol will be sold responsibly by MelaKulcha to sustain these community-building activities.
<b>Address of premises*</b>	24 McLachlan Street, Darwin NT 0800
<b>Information about how your liquor application might affect the community, and who you have consulted about your application</b>	

<p><b>Tell us about the impact you think your proposed liquor licence or licence-related authorisation will have on the local community*</b></p>	<p><b>Positive impacts (public interest benefits):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advances cultural, recreational and social benefits by giving humanitarian entrants, migrants and CaLD communities the opportunity to share their culture through cuisine in a safe, supervised environment.</li> <li>• Supports successful settlement and integration in the NT.</li> <li>• Provides employment and training opportunities in event management, food service and responsible service of alcohol.</li> <li>• Aligns with harm minimisation: all events include substantial food, RSA-trained staff (including the nominee/CEO), a maximum of 4 standard drinks per person per transaction, and an early finish time (9:30 pm).</li> <li>• Events are small-scale, contained on private premises, and promote responsible drinking combined with cultural activities.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Have you consulted people who live or work in the neighbourhood?*</b></p>		<p>Yes / <b>No</b></p>
<p>If yes, explain who you consulted (eg. local residents and businesses, clinics, etc.), how (eg. in person, by phone or email) and what their feedback was</p>	<p>As a Very Low Risk application on private premises with small numbers, formal neighbourhood consultation has not been undertaken. We are committed to consulting local residents and businesses if Licensing NT requires it or if any issues arise.</p>	
<p><b>Have you consulted the local council?*</b></p>		<p>Yes / <b>No</b></p>
<p>If yes, explain who you consulted, how and what their feedback was</p>		
<p><b>Have you consulted the local police officer in charge (OIC) and/or the NT Police major events office?*</b></p>		<p>Yes / <b>No</b></p>

<p>If yes, explain who you consulted, how and what their feedback was</p>		
<p><b>Have you consulted people who use, or travel to or from, places of worship in the area?*</b></p>		<p>Yes / No</p>
<p>If yes, give the name of the place/s of worship and explain how you consulted people who access it and what their feedback was</p>	<p>We have consulted with the Church as we are right next to the churches and they are our landlord as well, since the operations are outside of church hours and on private premise, The church and the church attendees do not have any concerns with this.</p>	
<p><b>Have you consulted people who use, or travel to or from, hospitals in the area?*</b></p>		<p>Yes / No</p>
<p>If yes, give the name of the hospital and how you consulted people who access it and what their feedback was</p>	<p>There are no Hospitals close to the premises of the venue</p>	
<p><b>Have you consulted people who use, or travel to or from, schools in the area?*</b></p>		<p>Yes / No</p>

<p>If yes, give the name of the school and how you consulted people who access it and what their feedback was</p>	<p>A school is close to the venue, so we have written them a formal letter advising of this initiative and we have not received any negative feedback from the school majorly due to our operating hours being outside of school hours. The school is very supportive of this initiative due the community aspect of it.</p>	
<p><b>Have you consulted other stakeholders about the risk of undue offence, annoyance, disturbance or inconvenience to people who live or work in the vicinity of the proposed licensed premises or who are using or travelling to or from a place of public worship, a hospital or a school?*</b></p>		<p>Yes / No</p>
<p>If yes, explain who you have consulted and how</p>	<p>We have consulted the school and church due to them being in close vicinity to us by sending out letters and having conversations face to face as well especially with the church. The area where we are located is mostly commercial and our hours of operation are outside of office hours, hence it will not cause any disturbance or inconvenience to the people who live or work in the area. We are committed to consulting local residents and businesses if Licensing NT requires it or if any issues arise.</p>	
<p>If no, explain why you decided not to consult with them</p>		

<b>Were any issues or concerns raised during the consultation?*</b>		Yes / <b>No</b>
<p>If yes, describe what they were and whether or not they were resolved</p>		
<b>Were all issues and concerns raised by the people and/or organisations you consulted resolved?*</b>		Yes / <b>No</b>
<p>If no, what measures will be / have been implemented or maintained to address the potential for undue offence, annoyance, disturbance, or inconvenience to people who live or work in the vicinity of the proposed licensed premises or who are using, or travelling to or from, a place of public worship, a hospital or a school?</p>		

Is there any other information that you think the Commission should know about your application?		Yes / No	
If yes, please share it here	<p>The applicant is a not-for-profit incorporated association whose core mission is to support humanitarian entrants, migrants and CaLD communities settling in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Mela Kulcha operates as our social enterprise restaurant and café. The proposed <b>Community Event Authority</b> will enable weekly or bi-weekly small cultural events (max 200 attendees, 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm) on our private outdoor gated premises. Each event allows a different multicultural community to showcase their cuisine using our licensed commercial kitchen, with food served alongside responsibly sold alcohol (max 4 standard drinks per person per transaction).</p> <p>Alcohol sales will be the sole income stream to sustain these low-cost events, directly advancing cultural, recreational and social benefits while minimising harm through food service, RSA-trained staff (including the CEO/nominee), ticketed entry and an early finish time.</p> <p>This initiative strongly aligns with the objects of the <i>Liquor Act 2019 (NT)</i> by promoting responsible service, community integration, and positive cultural outcomes with negligible adverse impact due to the very low risk nature, private setting and small scale.</p>		
	<b>Privacy declaration</b>		
	I have read the privacy statement at the end of this form and declare that I have made reasonable efforts to make all third parties aware of the information in the privacy statement.		
	Signature of applicant		Date

## Privacy statement

### For the applicant

You have been asked to provide personal information as part of this application. You do not have to provide us with your personal information but if you choose not to, we might not be able to accept or process your application, or your application may be refused. As part of this application, you are also providing personal information about other persons ('third parties').

Please ensure that you let all third parties know that you are providing their information as part of your application, and ensure they are aware of the information set out below.

### For the applicant and third parties

We collect and use your personal information to process and manage this application (and, if approved, any subsequent licence/registration) under the *Liquor Act 2019*<sup>1</sup>. Third party information is required by law to enable consideration of the applicant's suitability to hold a licence / registration. If the applicant does not provide this information, it may affect their ability to obtain and maintain a licence / registration.

We may share your information with the Liquor Commission, NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services, local council, the Department of Health and/or other authorities or people, but only if we are required or authorised by law to do so. We will also not use your personal information unless that use is required or authorised by law. You have a right to access the information we hold about you. To learn more about this, or if you would like to access or correct the information we hold about you or make a privacy complaint about us, go to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade website<sup>2</sup>.

To specifically discuss how your information is used and shared by Licensing NT, you can call us on 08 8999 1800 or email us at [LiquorLicensing.DITT@nt.gov.au](mailto:LiquorLicensing.DITT@nt.gov.au).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/LIQUOR-ACT-2019>

<sup>2</sup> <https://industry.nt.gov.au/publications/corporate/privacy-policy>

## Noise Management Plan

### MELALEUCA REFUGEE CENTRE TORTURE & TRAUMA SURVIVOR'S SERVICE OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INC (Mela Kulcha Community Cultural Events)

**1. Overview** The applicant seeks a liquor licence with Community Event Authority for small-scale cultural community events on our private outdoor premises. Events will be held weekly or bi-weekly (mainly on weekends), with a maximum of 200 attendees, running from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Each event features a different multicultural community showcasing cuisine through our licensed commercial kitchen, with food served and responsible alcohol service (maximum 4 standard drinks per person per transaction).

Occasional live bands or cultural performances (acoustic or low-amplified) may occur as part of the cultural showcase. All music and performances will cease by 9:30 pm at the latest. Due to the Very Low Risk classification, small patron numbers, private setting, and early finish time, noise impact is expected to remain minimal. This plan ensures compliance with section 93 of the *Liquor Act 2019 (NT)* (undue and unreasonable noise) and the Northern Territory Noise Management Framework Guideline.

#### 2. Noise Sources

- Background music or low-level cultural performances.
- Occasional live band or cultural performances (limited to weekends).
- Patron conversation and social interaction.
- Food service and general event activity.

#### 3. Specific Noise Control Measures

- **Music and Live Performances:** Live bands or cultural performances will be low-volume and culturally appropriate. A maximum of two small speakers or a modest PA system will be used, positioned facing inward toward the event area. Volume will be monitored and kept at a level where music is not audible above normal conversation at the boundary of the premises. No high-volume amplification or bass-heavy systems will be used.
- **Curfew:** All music (background or live) and performances will stop no later than **9:30 pm**. The entire event, including patron departure, will commence shortly after.
- **Patron Noise:** Events are ticketed with a strict maximum of 200 attendees. Clear signage will require patrons to respect neighbours and keep voices at a reasonable level after 8:00 pm. Staff will actively monitor and manage patron's behaviour.

- **Premises Layout:** The outdoor area is on private premises. Sound equipment will be placed to direct noise inward. Existing fencing or temporary acoustic barriers (if needed) will help contain sound.
- **Monitoring:** A designated staff member (including the CEO/nominee) will monitor noise levels from the boundary at regular intervals. Immediate action will be taken to reduce volume or quieten patrons if required.
- **Complaints Response:** A dedicated contact number will be available during events for any neighbour concerns. All complaints will be logged and responded immediately. We commit full cooperation with Licensing NT, NT Police, or NT EPA.

#### **4. Additional Commitments**

- All staff and performers will be briefed on this Noise Management Plan before each event.
- Live performances will only occur on weekends and will be limited in frequency and volume to maintain the Very Low Risk nature of the events.
- No changes will be made to this plan without prior notification to Licensing NT.
- We accept any reasonable conditions the Liquor Commission may impose regarding noise or entertainment.

This Noise Management Plan ensures the events, including occasional live cultural performances, will not cause undue or unreasonable noise and will maintain good amenity for the surrounding area while delivering strong cultural and community benefits.

Prepared by: Kwame Selormey, CEO & Nominee Date: 13/04/2026

# Plan for Independent Operation of Liquor License

## Separate from Existing Mela Kulcha Café Operations

### Introduction

This document outlines the operational plan to ensure the proposed liquor license and associated Community Event Authority operates completely independently of the existing Mela Kulcha café on the same private premises. The plan ensures clear physical and operational separation, responsible storage of alcohol, and advertising that avoids any perceived connection to the café's hours or operations. This supports harm minimisation, responsible service of alcohol, and compliance with the *Liquor Act 2019 (NT)*.

### 1. Separation of Areas of Use

The bar/service area used for liquor sales and consumption during community events will operate entirely independently of the café.

- When the Mela Kulcha café is operational, the dedicated bar area will be completely closed and physically separated.
- The café operates from a mobile coffee van that is parked directly across from the bar area, creating a natural physical barrier and visual separation.
- During café operating hours, the bar area remains locked and inaccessible to café customers and staff.
- Liquor service and consumption will only occur during scheduled community dinner events, which are held outside café operating hours.

### 2. Provision of Alcohol Storage When Not in Use

Alcohol will be stored securely within the dedicated bar area to minimise visibility and accessibility:

- The bar area will have an opaque pulldown shutter screen like a garage that will be fully locked to avoid visibility of any stored alcohol
- There will be video surveillance of the area
- All alcoholic beverages will be stored inside the bar premises when not in active use during authorised events.
- The bar area has **two secure doors** that will be locked at the end of each shift/event.

- Only approved officials/nominees holding the liquor license (or their authorised delegates) will have keys or access codes to unlock the bar area.
- This arrangement ensures alcohol is not visible to café customers, passers-by, or the general public outside of authorised event times.

### 3. Provision of Advertising

All advertising and promotion for the community events will clearly distinguish them from the Mela Kulcha café:

- Event advertising will specify the separate event hours (dinner events only) and will not reference or align with the café's operating hours.
- Promotional materials (posters, social media, emails, etc.) will promote community dinner events as standalone occasions.
- Melaleuca does not intend to market alcohol as focus; however, will have the house rules and compliance policies relevant to alcohol service at all times.
- No advertising will suggest or imply any operational link between alcohol service and the daytime café activities.
- The name used for events (if different from the café) and clear disclaimers will further reinforce separation.

### 4. Additional Relevant Information

- **Event Nature:** These are private community dinner events with a maximum of 200 attendees per event, held on a bi-weekly basis. Alcohol will only be served during these events.
- **Responsible Service:** All staff serving alcohol will hold a current NT Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) certificate. A maximum of four (4) standard drinks per person per transaction will apply.
- **Noise and Amenity:** Events will conclude at a reasonable time, and noise will be managed to minimise impact on neighbours.
- **Record Keeping:** Detailed records of each event (attendance, alcohol sales, incidents) will be maintained and available for inspection by Licensing NT.

