

**CENTRALIAN**  
**Advocate**  
WE'RE FOR ALICE

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## NEWS TIPS

**Do you have a news photo or a story tip? If so, we want to hear from you!**

**News hotline:**  
**89509777**



**Send your photos to:**  
**news@**  
**aliceadvocate.com.au**

**Let us know if you come across any positive news stories in the community.**

**Do you have an event coming up? Let us know.**

**Want your opinion heard? Email or call us today.**

## Less drunk injuries in pandemic

THE number of people drunkenly injuring themselves or others has plunged since the forced closure of licensed venues on March 23.

Alcohol-related emergency department presentations at Alice Springs and Tennant Creek hospital fell by of more than 10 per cent.

A Health Department spokesman said the figures reflected "significant decreases in alcohol-related presentations at our EDs" since the pub doors closed.

"It is reasonable to assume this has occurred with ongoing alcohol reforms plus the lack of access to pubs and clubs due to COVID-19 safety restrictions," he said.

# Future-proofing our promising youth



**Clontarf Academy students Alonzo Nelson, 15, from Yirara College and Isaiah Miller, 13, from Centralian Middle School at their part-time job at Kmart where they decant products to be put on the shelf.**

Picture: EMMA MURRAY

**ALYCE MOKRZYCKI**  
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A LONGSTANDING partnership between Kmart and the Clontarf Foundation is proving collaboration is key when it comes to empowering young Indigenous men with meaningful opportunities to take control of their lives, and thrive.

Currently completing Year 10 at Yirara College in Alice Springs, 15-year-old Alonzo Nelson unpacks and organises stock at Kmart

Alice Springs after school, working anywhere from three to four days a week.

"It's my first job. I'm enjoying making new friends and getting paid – I'm saving my money but I'm also putting some aside for a new phone," Mr Nelson said.

A gifted Aussie rules player – training seven days a week – Mr Nelson has been able to manage his busy schedule thanks to the unwavering support of Yirara College, with class time freed-up for him to complete

online training modules for Kmart and a potential daytime shift on the cards. "My Mum and Dad said they are really proud of me," Mr Nelson smiled. Telling the *Advocate* he was learning to make new friends and work as a team at Kmart, 13-year-old Centralian Middle School student Isaiah Miller said he believed he'd continue to use the professional skills he was learning in future.

With ambitions to play in the AFL and one day own his own business, the Year 8 stu-

dent said he was proud of what he had accomplished at work to date – also his first job. "I'm enjoying learning to work together and just working in general," Mr Miller said.

"I told my nanna and my mum. They were happy with me that I'm earning my own money."

It's feedback that Kmart store manager, Mark Thustain, doesn't take for granted.

"Our goal at Kmart is to provide meaningful employment for young Indigenous

men, in partnership with Clontarf," Mr Thustain explained. "There's a great example of one of our Clontarf employees saying to me they were the first one in their family to have a job and that they had meaning in their life."

"Kmart, as part of Wesfarmers, are committed to supporting the local community we work in and it's absolutely amazing to have that opportunity to be able to make a tangible difference in these young men's lives."

## Gas exports rise as local price drops

A NEW report by energy consultancy EnergyQuest has found Australian domestic gas prices have fallen while gas exports have been sustained.

The report shows the number of liquefied natural gas shipments increased 3 per cent in April from the same month last year, while domestic gas prices dropped more than 50 per cent in the same period and

are at their lowest since 2016.

APPEA chief executive Andrew McConville said the report confirmed that sustained domestic supply and export revenue were not mutually exclusive – one need not come at the expense of the other.

He said transparent, open and secure access to resources were the key for long-term industry development.



**Andrew McConville.**

## Pandemic has kept thieves at bay

TERRITORIANS have the coronavirus lockdown to thank for helping NT to have one of the lowest rates of property crime in years, police say.

Commercial and residential break-ins were both down by more than 20 per cent in Central Australia.

Acting Assistant Police Commissioner Matt Hollamby urged residents to continue to

do what they could to prevent crime at home as we transition to the "new normal".

"The crime rates are over a 12-month period and COVID-19 has impacted for the month of March and April and continuing on into May, shows that vigilance can reduce crime," he said.

"One of the advantages of COVID-19 has been people

being at home and people are reporting suspicious behaviour more frequently because they're there and they see it.

"As we move back to the new normal we ask that people engage in just basic crime prevention around their houses."

Mr Hollamby said Tennant Creek, where break-ins spiked by more than 50 per cent, was "an exception".