

**16 April 2025**

## **Darwin International Airport and Australian Federal Police join forces to promote respectful and safe travel**

As we approach one of the busiest travel days of the year with the Easter break, Airport Development Group (ADG), together with the Australian Federal Police (AFP), is reinforcing its joint commitment to ensuring a safe, respectful, and welcoming travel environment for all passengers, as incidents of intoxicated and unruly behaviour continue to raise concerns across the aviation sector.

With the upcoming dry season, seeing more passengers travelling during evening and overnight services, there is a growing trend of intoxicated individuals arriving at boarding gates unfit to fly. In these situations, airline staff, often the first point of contact, are required to make the difficult judgement call of whether a passenger can safely board a flight.

**Airport Development Group Executive General Manager Airports Rob Porter** said a proactive and united approach is crucial to maintaining a safe and positive airport experience.

"Darwin International Airport is a gateway to the Northern Territory, and we want every traveller to feel safe, respected and welcome," said Mr Porter.

"That starts with treating each other, and our staff, with common courtesy and care."

"We know travel can be stressful, particularly during busy periods like the Easter break, but there is no excuse for abusive or disruptive behaviour," he said. "Airport staff, whether they're airline, hospitality, or security personnel, deserve to come to work without fear of aggression or harm."

**Australian Federal Police Superintendent Greg Davis**, Investigations and Operations – Northern Territory Central Command, added:

"The AFP has a Zero Tolerance policy for disruptive or criminal behaviour on flights and in airport precincts. We urge travellers to be responsible when consuming alcohol, as disruptive actions can lead to criminal charges, fines, or imprisonment."

ADG continues to support its airline, security, and hospitality partners in managing these situations with professionalism and care. The partnership with AFP ensures that the airport environment remains a secure and respectful space for everyone.

"Disruptive behaviour doesn't just affect those directly involved – it impacts everyone's experience, from fellow travellers to frontline staff," Mr Porter added. "We're asking the travelling public to do their part, be mindful, drink responsibly, and follow the instructions of airport and airline personnel."

As the Easter holiday period approaches, ADG and the AFP encourage all passengers to travel with respect and responsibility.

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