HOW MANY POKIES DO WE NEED?

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson says he will be introducing the following Matter of Public Importance today in Parliament for debate.

Matter of Public Importance

That the Minister for Racing and Gaming explain why the Government lifted the individual venue caps on poker machines from 10 to 20 in hotels and the number in clubs from 45 to 55.

That the Minister for Racing and Gaming explain why the Government didn’t announce the changes to poker machine numbers and the increase in the Gaming Machine Levy, in Parliament but instead waited until Parliament had closed down for the year?

That the Minister say who the Government discussed the changes with before these changes were announced, and did the Government do any study of the potential impacts these changes might bring e.g a social impact study?

Gerry says that the Government should not have introduced any changes to the number of poker machines before the Parliament had a chance to debate the changes and a public inquiry should have had been set up so that all sectors of the community could have been able to participate in this important social issue.