

Speak Up: Are you concerned about the potential rise in pokie machines in your community?

NO I don't play pokies.



YES They're bad. They ruin homes and families.



YES Pokie machines cause addictions.



YES They're not good. Gambling is a waste of money.



NO I don't use them. What people want to do with their money is their business. It's just a waste of money to me.



BARNEY STROHFELD, HUMPTY DOO BEN VESTY, FARRAR

TANYA VESTY, FARRAR

FARAZ RANA, BERRY SPRINGS

RHONDA TURVEY, PINELANDS

YOUR VOICE IN THE TERRITORY

Letters

LETTER OF THE DAY

Pokies tale a chilling insight

DID you see the *Ka-Ching!* program?

Horrifying to think how people's expectation of a fair go (most people do not really understand probability anyway) leads so many down the path to debt and destruction.

Governments love our gambling because of the rake-off they get from the takings.

But think again. The money received by governments is money that is needed by so many of the players just to survive.

They are gambling in the vain hope of improving their lot.

When the most vulnerable are caught out in this rort, it is then government which needs

to pick up the pieces at a considerable cost. Is not prevention better than cure?

We really do need either a requirement for the odds to be less cynically loaded against the players or for governments to regulate the maximum amount players can bet and lose.

This is not being a nanny state.

This is responsible government, recognising the fallibility of the desperate.

Yes I also gamble but, because I know I am easily addicted, I use my entertainment money and keep a record which tells me when to stop.

Rosemary Jacob,
Fannie Bay

PICK OF THE PICS



Mud racing returned to the Top End on Saturday night and was once again a big hit with the fans. Driver Eddie Tattingham, who had hip surgery two months ago, handed the reins of his beast Bugley to daughter Demi, 17

Picture: IVAN RACHMAN

online comments www.ntnews.com.au

ON POKER MACHINES

■ Ban pokies and most clubs around the country will have to shut the doors. **Pum Rig of Darwin**

■ Seeing as (by law) you have to be 18 to enter and play in a gaming area, how about we let the adults decide how they want to spend their own money? Enough of the anti-everything brigades, hand-wringers and bleeding hearts. Object to machine increases as the root of all evil and then ask

the government for more money to treat so-called problem gamblers. Win, win! *sigh*. **Had enough of people telling adults how to live their lives**

■ What makes me angry is that we are being asked to live in a world that will be set up for those people with emotional and addictive problems; alcohol problems, gamblers, illicit drug users and the obese which make up less than 30 per cent of the community

■ I am sick after counselling for over 30 years of hearing the "poor me" people calling for hotels to be closed down or slot machines removed or controlled. — **SEE BELOW**

want to change our world. I want people to be able to gamble and drink alcohol and eat whatever they wish, if they choose to do that. I am sick after counselling for over 30 years of hearing the "poor me" people calling for hotels to be closed down or slot machines

removed or controlled and complain about takeaway foods. What sort of world do these people live in? What is happening? These people with emotional, addictive problems and the obese have to take responsibility as adults for the choices they make and stop

blaming people, places and things for the way they live. Take some bloody responsibility and stop blaming the grog, takeaway food and the pokies for problems with your weak characters. Go seek help and leave the rest of us alone, you whingers. **Ted in Bakewell**

ON PALMO HOSPITAL

■ I'm afraid the Territory CLP party is shameless. Natasha is actually a good local member (and that coming from a Labor man). Elferink and Notaras

must go. The health department has lurched from cover up to crisis on an almost monthly basis. **Insider of Block**

■ Griggs will dig all right, she will dig furiously until this has all blown over and then back to business as usual. Ho hum.

ON EMU RESCUE

■ Good work. Now let's save the dogs and horses that suffer every single day. **Ocker of Darwin**

txt the editor 0428 NTNEWS (686 397)

ON HOSPITAL STUNT

■ Natasha Griggs finally admits the Palmerston "pour" was a "stunt" and says "I've written to Adam Giles and asked for a full explanation" and "I will have no more to do with the CLP until the opening date". Now Mr Speaker, I take that as a vote of "NO CONFIDENCE" in this mob. **AChris**

■ The member 4 Solomon complaining about "orchestrated theatre" - now that is a real doozy!

■ I bet u wish u didn't sign up with the NT Government, Lend Lease.

ON CLP

■ It's just wrong to say that the members of the CLP are "unemployable". There's a watermelon farm just down the track that is always looking for pickers.

■ So Mr Giles was "concerned that after-hours youth services have lacked a coordinated approach". Why did CLP cut the funding in the first place?

■ The writing is on the wall! The CLP has no empathy for the Darwin Harbour or anywhere else. Develop, develop and more development. It's

■ How good were those Wallabies against Argentina? Great to see the best two teams in the Southern hemisphere face off in the final. Bring on the haka!!!

fast becoming like Sydney Harbour, cluttered and filthy and no fish. 30 years ago I caught many fish and now there is nothing, especially near ports or other infrastructure! How many oily dirty ships will come and go with Chinese ownership? A CLP government out of control. Developing a dead patch for rugby league which will obviously cost double the

20 million. What is Giles really up to? Tollner must be running for the seat of Spillett as he doesn't care about his local members. **Louise in Ludmilla**

ON OTHER THINGS

■ I have friends down south who would mock and laugh at the NT for our many and varied hick town mistakes. I would always defend the NT. I'm sad-

dened to say I can't defend us anymore. We are the laughing stock of Australia.

■ Tommy Nichols' mob catches 300 odd crocs a year, and there is only one guy who can catch the rogue at Peppy. Good advertising anyway. Rangers are doing a champion job. **Pete, Berrimah**

■ Disgusted by the filth left behind by gum chewers. It should be a crime like in Singapore.

■ Another very successful Berry Springs mkts (mango festival) big bouquet 2 all who

orginsd; but much BIGA brick-bat 2 our PHANTOM local polie who NEVA shows up, PATHETIC Higgins! Do the locals scare ya mate? **OABigbird D'Riv**

■ Matt Wright ... Oh my!! Not only does he have respect for the crocs, he has respect for nature and ... gorgeous as hell lol. **Dr Love, Darwin**

■ The free trade agreement is one sided. Foreigners are not allowed to own land in China not that you would want to go there with their billions of people, might be why they are buying up our country!