CAPPING POKIES A GOOD MOVE

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says he welcomes the cap on pokies announced by the Government today, even if the horse has bolted.

He says the previous Government did a deal with the Australian Hotels Association NT to lift the cap on pokies. They did it without any reference to the Parliament and thereby avoided proper scrutiny of the changes.

Gerry says if you did a count of the numbers of pokies in the Territory including those in the casinos we would have to have one of the highest rates of pokies per capita of any state or Territory in the country.

Gerry says, in light of these changes, the Government should also explain if the trading of poker machines will be allowed especially if the new cap will stop new players entering the market and will there be any rules regarding trading.