Date: 29 January 2008

HOW MANY MORE PENSIONERS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT IN THE CENTRELINK INCOME MANAGEMENT TRAP?

“It concerns me that pensioners living at Old Timers' Home and along Ilparpa Road have been confused with people living at Old Timers' Camp and Ilparpa Camp", says Loraine Braham, Independent Member for Braitling.

"The camps are in prescribed areas and residents are subject to the Federal Government's welfare quarantine program".

"However, Centrelink officers making decisions about individual cases are not based in Alice Springs so they do not know the localities of the prescribed areas".

"This may be the reason why people not living in prescribed areas are being told their pensions will be quarantined".

"I want to alert pensioners that if they receive a letter from Centrelink titled "Notice of Income Management" and they do not live in a prescribed area, they should immediately be concerned and question the validity of the letter".

"It is too easy to be confused and not understand what is being asked".

"The question needs to be asked - how many people are being caught in the system, without knowing it?"