Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says he welcomes the announcement by the Minister for Sport and Recreation Karl Hampton for a program run by Boxing NT to help kids straying into the criminal system.

Gerry says he has also been pushing this option for a number of years and sees it as part of a long term strategy to help kids stay away from crime.

Gerry says he would like the programme to be extended to the Palmerston, Katherine and Rural Area and hopes expert coaches like Boyd Scully who runs the Taminmin Boxing Club are used to run the programme.

Gerry says he believe the Government should also increase the number of youth drop-in centres especially in the Darwin area. Presently there is only one – the Shak at Casuarina – and even that is quite limited because of space. There should be another one similar to the Don Bosco Youth Centre in St Mary’s in Sydney which caters for many sports and activities for kids in the region. We should be making sure kids do not have too much idle time – being bored leads to trouble.