GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO LOOK AT OPTIONS FOR DARWIN PRISON VISITATIONS

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the scrapping of weekday visiting hours at Darwin Prison is a retrograde step for both the family and friends of prisoners and the prisoners themselves.

Gerry says he supports structured work days as highlighted by the Executive Director of Corrections but that should not be an impediment to weekday visiting hours.

Gerry says that in WA prisons such as Casuarina, Bandyup and Broome, visitations are allowed at the end of the day. They have structured work days.

Gerry says that should happen in the Darwin Prison – there could still be a structured day and still time for a couple of hour’s visitation after work.

Now all the visits will be on the weekend meaning some families will miss out as there will be not enough time or space for all the visits to happen.

The policy doesn’t take into account the families that have to work on weekends.

Gerry says that the Government needs to rethink this policy which is based more on the system in NSW rather than the Territory.

He says this is not a good start for a New Era.