MEMO KARL: FIND A NEW BOWLS VENUE

The overnight closure of the ‘Memo’ Club in Alice Springs is representative of wider issues in the town.

Member for Braitling, Adam Giles, said the Memorial Club’s closure is a sad day for staff, management, patrons and creditors of the iconic facility.

“The closure is symptomatic of the town’s economy which is suffering as a result of the downturn in tourism and high levels of crime,” Mr Giles said.

“People aren’t going out as frequently because they have less money in their pockets, but also people have been put off by the threat of crime and anti-social behaviour.

“Not only that, but the Memo has had to respond to Government laws such as the Banned Drinker Register.

“People who park their cars in the car park opposite the ‘Memo’ Club were often on the receiving end of attacks by vandals and from conversations I’ve had I know there is a level of fear about going out to town.”

Mr Giles said the Memo’s closure also presented issues surrounding the staging of this year’s Masters Games.

“With the closure of the Alice Springs Bowling Club last year the ‘Memo’s’ bowling club was earmarked for use during the Masters,” he said.

“Now the ‘Memo’s’ closed, there’s no bowls facility for the Masters. Minister for Central Australia, Karl Hampton, should get involved to ensure there is an alternative plan for this iconic event.

“In addition to the bowls, the ‘Memo’ has been a major contributor over many years to a range of sports including cricket and netball and has also supported events such as the Finke Desert race.

“I hope issues surrounding its administration can be resolved and the club can continue contributing to the community.”

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118