Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says it very disappointing the NT Government has ceased funding the Indigenous Case Management Service (ICMS) operated by Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

This has meant the ID program for prisoners has ceased operating.

Gerry says that with the Government promoting the Sentenced to a Job program it is strange that a fundamental part of getting a job or a licence is having an ID and that will be more difficult to obtain now that funding has ceased.

Gerry says ICMS program has been very successful with over 200 IDs being approved in 6 months. This meant that many Aboriginal prisoners would have an ID before they left prison and after leaving prison could pick up their mail, go to CentreLink, apply to NT Housing, go to a bank, or have proof of identity when applying for a job, all made much easier because Larrakia Nation has issued them with an ID.

Gerry says Larrakia Nation were able to make it much easier for prisoners to get an ID than the Motor Vehicle Registry because they were able to overcome difficulties where prisoners had no birth certificate and they were able to put on the ID not only their birth names but their full Aboriginal name.

Gerry said he hopes the Government will rethink its decision to stop funding ICMS.