DATE 07/01/13
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Same story, only names and places have been changed.

Independent Member for Nelson Gerry Wood says that the NT Government and the Opposition need to take notice of what the Vice President of the Police Association of NSW, Pat Gooley, has just said in a letter to George Souris, Minister for Tourism for NSW.

Gerry says just a few quotes from the Vice President’s letter (see below) reflect exactly the same problems we have in the NT with our political leaders in relation to doing something practical about reducing alcohol fueled violence in the Darwin CBD.

He says that Pat Gooley’s letter has highlighted the exact same excuses that our Government and Opposition put forward in debate, when they opposed changes to the licensing hours in Mitchell Street that Gerry had put forward in the October sittings.

Gerry says, when are our Government and Opposition going to get real? Why don’t they do something now, before the situation gets worse?

From Pat Gooley, The Vice President.

“I knew in my heart that all the campaigning that I have done to reduce alcohol fuelled violence would be swallowed up in the rhetoric of personal responsibility, one size doesn’t fit all and that it still wasn’t even 10pm.”

And he goes on further to say.

“It is time for the Premier, Barry O’Farrell to demonstrate that he is running this state for the benefit of his constituents. Because at the moment it appears the Australian Hotels Association is running the minister’s policies for the benefit of a handful of licensees who hold late night trading licences. If your government is willing to take $11 million a month out of drivers’ pockets through speed cameras to reduce crashes by 42% in black spots, why won’t you tell your Minister to trial the Newcastle Model to reduce assaults by 37% in violent black spots?

You have emergency service workers, community leaders, leading academics and the wider community begging you to trial these changes, but your minister has his head in the sand, only popping up to trot out the AHA mantra.”

Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo