GOVERNMENT STIFLES DEMOCRACY IN NT

The Northern Territory Government has voted in Parliament to make the word "clumsy" unparliamentary.

During a debate in the house the CLP's Peter Maley used the term "clumsy response" with regard to an answer he received from Dr Peter Toyne.

An order from the chair then insisted that the words be withdrawn as being unparliamentary. A vote was called by John Elferink in relation to the ruling and the Martin Government voted to support the decision from the chair.

This means that the term "clumsy response" may no longer be used in parliament.

Speaking in Darwin today John Elferink said,

"This decision by the Government shows the lengths that the Martin administration goes to in an effort to interfere with open and honest debate in our parliament.

"The government doesn't like what it hears and as a consequence it crushes the right of members to speak on spurious grounds.

"If the word "clumsy" offends government and they vote to make it unparliamentary how long that other words like "protest", "disagree" and "no", become offensive to them and they vote them out of existence?"

Ends