USE REGIONAL COUNCILS TO RUN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Gerry Wood, Independent Member for Nelson, says the Federal Government should drop its CDP work program and replace it with employment schemes run by regional councils to help Aboriginal people to find work.

Gerry says Regional Councils are made up of locals who understand the people they are dealing with and they have the knowledge of their area to create jobs for these people.

He said it also means money provided to administer the jobs program stays in the community through the local council not with some outside contracted body.

Gerry says the Government should give councils adequate resources for capital equipment and top up the ‘work for the dole rate’ to a proper wage so that people aren’t working for the dole but are working like anyone else!

He says that if people don’t want to work that is their business but the only way they will receive an income (unless they get a job elsewhere) is if they turn up and work with their local council.

Gerry says work is important for a person’s dignity and it is an opportunity for people to have pride in their own community. He said with the high rates of domestic violence it is also important that men especially are not sitting around doing nothing and getting bored and therefore getting into trouble but given an opportunity to have a positive role in their family life by having a job.