

CA welcome's Fielding's stance on poker machines

The Country Alliance party says it supports Family First's policy on poker machines, a policy very similar to its own policy announced prior to the 2006 Victorian State Election.

Party spokesman, Russell Bate, said his party announced a policy to limit poker machines to casinos and racing venues in May 2006. In November 2006 Family First announced a very similar policy, with the essential difference being that Family First specified the Crown Casino.

"Now in 2008 Family First have re-released their policy as part of a parliamentary enquiry. There are some improvements, but also some similarities," he said.

"For example, our policy in 2006 was to stop poker machines from being able to accept \$50 notes. This has now been replicated in Family First's new pokie policy and we take that as a compliment to our good work."

However Mr Bate said he was comfortable with Family First's position.

"They've gone a couple of steps further to limit, for example, multiple line betting. At the end of the day, if we end up in the same parliament, I am sure you will see Country Alliance working closely with Family First to address this serious social problem."

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