



FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

MEDIA RELEASE

SF/283. Monday March 24, 2008

COAG – NO MORE BLAME GAME

**With an all Labor COAG it's time for
real action not just a cosy chat**

Now that we have Labor in government across all states and federally, this Wednesday's Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting has to stop the "blame game" and get on and address issues with real actions.

"For the first time there is a real opportunity at this week's COAG meeting to get on with the job and for each State government to put aside their own self interest for the common good of all Australians," Family First leader Steve Fielding said today.

"COAG use to be all about the 'blame game' between Liberal and Labor governments. What Australians don't want is for COAG to turn into just another 'cozy chat' of all Labor governments from across Australia. Instead COAG should look at what is working well in one state, then use it as 'best practice' and support its roll-out across the nation," Senator Fielding said.

"Here are just four important laws that are already operating in one state of Australia that COAG should immediately agree to roll-out across Australia:

1. Only NSW makes it illegal to serve someone else's kids alcohol in their own home – if rolled out across Australia this would re-enforce a responsible drinking culture;
2. Only SA has a drink container deposit scheme where you get 5 cents back on containers – if rolled out across Australia this would lift drink container recycling from 38% up to a mammoth 85% and we would all see less litter;
3. Only WA has poker machines restricted to casinos and not in local pubs and clubs – if this was phased in across Australia it would reduce the pokies toll;
4. Only WA has Fuel Watch which means oil giants must set and hold their retail price for 24 hours in advance – if this was rolled out across Australia this would lower petrol prices by 1.9 cents and save motorists \$300 million a year.

"The Prime Minister needs to take the lead and show that under wall to wall Labor governments, COAG can deliver real action rather than just more talk," Senator Fielding said.

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