Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition
Media Release

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A POOR KON JOB

The Territory Opposition has censured the Minister for Health, Kon Vatskalis, for deliberately and repeatedly misleading Parliament during question time today.

“The range of the Health Minister’s calculated deceptions swung from the serious to the silly,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“Having been caught red handed amusing himself with video clips during question time yesterday the Minister foolishly denied he had been watching rally car crashes on his computer during question time.

“I call it foolish because there was television footage of him doing exactly what he denied precisely when he denied it.

“The Minister’s deception goes to the matter of character and judgement.

“If he can’t be trusted to tell the truth on a relatively minor matter, what confidence can Territorians have in his explanation of more serious issues.

“On the serious end of the scale the Minister claimed that the security upgrade for the paediatrics ward at Royal Darwin Hospital recommended by the O’Sullivan Report have been completed.

“They have not and the Minister was forced to admit that fact in a later answer during question time.

“The Minister also misled the Parliament about young children going missing from Royal Darwin Hospital.

“The Minister claimed they left with their parents – that’s not what the Ombudsman reported.

“Earlier the Minister denied the missing children were even part of the Ombudsman’s report.

“In response to a direct quote about children going missing for 15 and 16 hours the Minister stated :” The Ombudsman’s investigation (was) into the
unjustified use of restraining patients, not the Report the Leader of the Opposition claims.

“In fact I was quoting from the Ombudsman’s Report the Minister tabled yesterday.

“The Minister’s misleading erratic, confused responses to straight forward questions about the Ombudsman’s report places a huge question mark over the Minister’s capacity to handle the health portfolio.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594