PEOPLE PAWNS IN POLITICAL PUNCH UP

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the withdrawal of funds for the after hour medical centre at Farrar appears to be about politics rather than finding a solution which will provide Palmerston and rural people with an after hours bulk billing service.

The reality is that the Labor Government has funded the service for the last 5 years. Now, not far off a Federal election the Government says that bulk billing services are the responsibility of the Federal Government and they should fund the Farrar bulk billing service. The NT Government has therefore do close the after hours service.

The real question that the NT Government needs to answer is did it actively tried to negotiate funding with the Commonwealth for this service before it withdrew its funding? Is it deliberately using the closure of this service for political gain rather than making a genuine attempt to keep the service running?

If it has been trying to negotiate, the government should tell the people when those negotiations took place with, who was at those negotiations and what was the outcomes of those negotiations.

Without evidence that the government has been negotiating with the Commonwealth and in good faith one can only presume Palmerston and Rural residents are losing their after hours bulk billing service for political ends.