Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

Media Release

November 3rd 2008

WHERE TO FOR SUPER CLINIC?

The Henderson Government’s failure to secure any tenders for the GP Super Clinic in Palmerston has left the promise of a 24-hour urgent-care general practice by the end of the year in tatters.

"Tenders for the provision of Urgent Care After Hours GP services for the proposed Palmerston Super Clinic went out early last month," says Opposition Leader Terry Mills.

"Unfortunately for the residents of Palmerston, the tender process has closed without a single applicant.

"The Henderson Government’s website confirmed what the Opposition and the Australian Medical Association had been saying all along - Labor is not prepared to spend the money to recruit GPs to the practice.

"The Territory Government pledged $2million a year to fund recurrent spending, when at least twice that amount is required.

"The Health Minister, Chris Burns, must now explain exactly where the super clinic promise stands - and whether it will be operating by the end of the year.

"And the Member for Solomon, Damian Hale, must also break his silence and say what this latest set-back means to the clinic.

"The Rudd and Henderson Governments have both made a great deal about the 24-hour clinic.

"It should be remembered that the current promise is merely restoring a 24-hour service that Labor reduced to 6pm to 10pm when it first came to office.

"Not satisfied with slashing the 24-hour service, Territory Labor then cut funding for the 6pm-10pm service in its second term of office.

"Labor’s silence about the failure to attract any tenderer to a service it previously destroyed has been deafening.

"Chris Burns should also explain why work on construction of the Oncology Unit has also been delayed."

To arrange further comment: Greg Charter 0400 014 059