LABOR OPPOSED TO PATIENT CHOICE

The heartless approach to patient care taken by successive Labor Health Ministers shows no sign of abating under the guidance of Kon Vatskalis.

Shadow Health Minister Matt Conlan said Mr Vatskalis’ approach to the welfare of cancer sufferers in Central Australia is detached and uncaring.

“Mr Vatskalis has basically thrown cancer patients in Alice Springs to the wolves,” Mr Conlan said.

“While the Country Liberals led the campaign to have the Labor Government honour its 2001 election promise to build an Oncology Unit, it shouldn’t exist at the expense of the welfare of Alice Springs patients.

“Mr Vatskalis says Alice Springs cancer sufferers will only be supported by Labor if they choose to be treated in Darwin.

“If they elect to be treated close to family in Adelaide, they must either have private health cover or pay for it themselves.

“What he neglects to mention is they’ll have to meet the cost of airfares and other expenses.

“The Country Liberals believe Alice Springs patients should be able to choose whether they undergo cancer treatment in Darwin or Adelaide – and be supported by the Government either way.

“As I’ve previously pointed out, the costs of travelling between Darwin and Adelaide are about the same.
“Mr Vatskalis ought to show some compassion towards some of the most vulnerable members of our society and allow them to make a real choice about where they are treated.”

Further comment: Matt Conlan 0408 805 338