FULL DIAGNOSIS NEEDED TO REVIVE HEALTH

A Country Liberals Government would conduct a comprehensive review of the Northern Territory’s health system as a starting point towards improving health outcomes and better targeting primary and acute health care delivery.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills committed $900,000 to this new, three stage approach that will end years of underperformance by successive Labor governments in this key portfolio area.

“At the moment, hospital health funding is undertaken using a block funding model,” Mr Mills said.

“Put simply, that means last year’s funding, plus costs, plus new initiatives, minus efficiencies.

“This model is neither practical nor far sighted. Labor has no medium or long term model for hospital funding and this impacts on funding into the future and the quality of health service delivery.”

Mr Mills said $300,000 would be directed towards developing – in conjunction with key stakeholders – short, medium and long term funding models to identify the Territory’s future health needs.

Of that, $100,000 would go towards collating and examining the numerous reports into the Territory’s health service that have been compiled over the past 10 years.

Work began 10 years ago on developing an appropriate funding model for the Territory hospital system but when Labor came to power, that work stopped.

“This work must be completed and my commitment is to get that done without further delay,” Mr Mills said.

“The Country Liberals would then spend $600,000 developing an appropriate funding model for Territory hospitals and to map out a pathway for primary and acute healthcare needs,” Mr Mills said.

“While it’s impossible to overstate the importance of reliable acute health delivery, governments must become serious about preventative health care.
“On that basis I have re-committed to our green and lifestyle prescriptions, which reward Territorians who choose a healthy lifestyle.

“As well, I would implement a number of direct actions to drive down the Territory’s notoriously high smoking rates including a rebate for Quit smoking campaigns, and a similar model to reduce alcohol consumption.

“A Country Liberals Government would help boost the number of surgical GPs in regional and remote areas by helping to meet their insurance, training and transport costs.”

Mr Mills said the macabre spectacle of successive Labor health ministers patting themselves on the back for announcing record health budgets had failed to result in adequate health outcomes.

“Unlike Labor, we will look for alternative health delivery models rather than throw money hand over fist to look good and to look like you’re working hard.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594