Matt Conlan
Shadow Minister for Health

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LIGHTS ON NOBODY HOME

The Territory Opposition has welcomed the progress on the long promised Oncology Unit at Royal Darwin Hospital but is critical of the Federal and Territory Governments decision to officially open the clinic prematurely.

“Having kept Territorians waiting a decade to fulfil its promise to deliver an Oncology Unit, Labor should have had the decency to wait until the Unit was operational before officially opening it,” says Matt Conlan, Shadow Health Minister.

“Too many cancer patients have suffered the disruptive effects of travelling interstate for treatment whilst Territory Labor fumbled the delivery of the Oncology Unit.

“Officially opening the Unit before cancer patients can be treated adds insult to injury.

“The Territory Government should also reconsider its opposition to allowing cancer patients from Central Australia to choose between using the Darwin facility and travelling to Adelaide for treatment.

“Many people from Central Australia have close ties with Adelaide and would be in more familiar surroundings is there were able to travel south for treatment.

“A little compassion can have immense benefits in the treatment of cancer.”

Further comment: Matt Conlan 0408 805 338