COUNTRY LIBERALS
MEDIA RELEASE

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY NEEDED

Matt Conlan MLA

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The Health Minister, Kon Vatskalis, must launch a full and independent inquiry into the recruitment of medical professionals in the Northern Territory.

“Public confidence in the qualifications of the professionals who staff the health system is of paramount importance,” says Matt Conlan, Shadow Health Minister.

“The charging of an individual with offences relating to the alleged use of a fake medical degree has undermined that confidence.

“The inquiry needs to get to the bottom of how this particular individual managed to secure employment as a doctor at Alice Springs Hospital.

“The Territory Government’s procedures for employing health professionals need to be put under the spotlight.

“The Minister must move promptly on this matter. The buck-passing that has occurred since the allegations came to light has deepened public concerns about the integrity of the Territory’s health system.

“The inquiry’s finding should be tabled in Parliament at the next sittings.

“The Minister must also ensure the qualifications of all other health professionals in the Northern Territory are re-checked.

Whilst the probability of another unqualified practitioner operating in the Territory is low, it simply can’t be ruled out.

“Further the Minister needs to ensure that all patients who were treated by the charged individual are contacted by Alice Springs Hospital.

“The Hospital must investigate whether any of the patients have been incorrectly treated and provide an apology to anybody seen by the charged individual.

“This episode is a black mark against the Territory’s public health system and the Minister needs to be on the front foot when dealing with it.”

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