"Issues of cleanliness at Royal Darwin Hospital continue to be a concern," says Shadow Health Minister Matt Conlan.

"I recently obtained several images photographed at the hospital over consecutive nights of cockroaches that had been killed while crawling on a patient as he lay in bed in one of the wards.

"As the images show, the number of cockroaches is disturbing – especially considering many more of the pests were scuttling about nearby on the floor.

"While cockroaches are actually quite clean creatures, it is troubling that so many of them have taken up residency at the hospital.

"I understand they thrive in dirty environments, which raises questions about the levels of cleanliness at Royal Darwin Hospital.

"When the patient who took these pictures asked why the hospital wasn’t sprayed to reduce numbers of the pests, he was told it wasn’t feasible to empty the hospital while spraying took place.

"It makes sense that patients could be transferred to different wards while an area is being sprayed.

"Issues of hygiene are becoming a regular feature of discussions with patients and staff at the hospital and the photographs confirm more should be done to keep the hospital clean."

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