Paul Henderson should release the Northern Territory Treasury’s analysis of the Prime Minister’s national health reform plan before signing up to the proposal, says Shadow Health Minister Matt Conlan.

Speaking on the eve of the COAG meeting that will determine whether or not the plan is implemented, Mr Conlan said it is disturbing Paul Henderson isn’t across the detail of the package.

“He seems to be going along with the Prime Minister because he’s received assurances the plan will provide better health services for the Territory,” Mr Conlan said. 

“No doubt Kevin Rudd’s given similar assurances to the Premiers of Victoria and Western Australia, but they’ve bothered to scrutinise the package for themselves and have decided it isn’t in their states’ best interests to sign.

“While the Country Liberals have an open mind about the merit of the Commonwealth’s reforms, I would want more than assurances from the plan’s architect before signing up to a national agreement.

“Given the importance of this health deal, it would have been appropriate for Paul Henderson to have his head around the detail rather than simply accepting the Prime Minister at his word.

“He should also make public the advice given to him by Treasury so Territorians can assess for themselves the impact on service delivery of the health reform plan as well as its effect on the budget bottom line.

“For the sake of transparency, Territorians should be kept in the loop on an issue as significant as this.”

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