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Northern Suburbs Superclinic: The Fight To Deliver

The NT Government today reaffirmed that it will do everything it possibly can to get a Superclinic for the people of the northern suburbs.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said the NT Government is seeking an urgent meeting with the Federal Health Minister to urge her to reconsider the Commonwealth decision, and to find a way to deliver the $5 million northern suburbs Superclinic.

Mr Henderson said we need to attract more GPs to the Territory. In Darwin we have the equivalent of 56 GPs currently working here compared to the national average of 81.5 per 100 000 population.

In Parliament this week the NT Government will call for the Federal Government to deliver the Superclinic to the northern suburbs, as well as call on the CLP and Coalition to drop their opposition to it.

“The NT Labor Government is committed to providing health care for all Territorians, not just those who can afford it,” Mr Henderson said.

“I know we can make this work, as the NT Government has a proven track record of creating solutions and developing successful partnerships for health services.

“We were the ones that helped create the partnership to deliver the Radiation Oncology Centre as well as help negotiate the successful contract for the partnership of Charles Darwin University and Flinders University to operate the Palmerston Super Clinic.

“So we have seen this work and we will make this work.”

Mr Vatskalis said unlike the CLP, the NT Government is committed to Superclinics as well as keeping Royal Darwin Hospital as the primary hospital for Darwin – not downgraded to a secondary hospital as suggested by Terry Mills last month.

“Darwin people have emphatically said no to Terry’s plans to downscale this hospital and move its headquarters to another location,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The NT Government agrees and will keep the hospital where it is, while still fighting for a Superclinic for the northern suburbs.”

Mr Vatskalis said he had written to all the GPs in Darwin/Palmerston area to encourage their support in finding a way to deliver the new super clinic, and had also written to the AMA to encourage their backing. Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746