5 July 2011

CLP got its facts wrong – again!

Health Minister, Kon Vatskalis today said that the Opposition health spokesman, Matt Conlan was wrong about the retrieval of a CareFlight patient from Lorella Springs Station to the Royal Darwin Hospital.

Minister Vatskalis also said that Matt Conlan needs to check his facts before he makes incorrect statements for a cheap political shot.

“Matt Conlan is ignorant and his story is not consistent with the patient’s version of events who gave his side of the story on the ABC’s Country Hour today,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“The patient has publicly acknowledged CareFlight and the Royal Darwin Hospital for saving his life, particularly given the remoteness of his station and does not feel in the circumstances that there were delays.

“A summary of the events provided by CareFlight highlights the retrieval from the extremely remote Lorella Springs Station was well managed with a good outcome as the patient is in a satisfactory condition at RDH.

“A retrieval via a Katherine based plane would have taken longer, with such a significant injury requiring an experienced emergency medical team to be collected first from Darwin.

“The ability to fly a medical team by fixed wing plane into the neighbouring station allowed them to be on the ground at the accident scene as quickly as possible, with the helicopter then transferring the patient, once he had been stabilized, to the fixed wing plane for transfer to Darwin.

“This rescue demonstrates the importance of the helicopter and plane working together.

“Matt Conlan should stop searching the internet for reasons to support his fascination with single engine aircraft and instead focus on the facts that the Top End areomedical contract is already helping to save Territorians lives.”

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