M E D I A  R E L E A S E

COUNTRY LIBS TO INTRODUCE LIVING WILLS BILL

March 27th, 2012

The Country Liberals have today given notice of a Bill to introduce living wills in the Northern Territory.

“Currently there is no ability for a person to make provision for incapacity in the Territory,” says Shadow Attorney General, John Elferink.

“Incacity means an individual loses the mental ability to make decisions and care for themself as a result of illness such as dementia or misfortune including head injury.

“Enduring Powers of Attorney for medical matters, also known as living wills, provide people with incapacity with the ability to make a plan and put a nother person in charge of that plan with full powers of attorney.

“At the moment that power resides exclusively with the Public Trustee.

"In the Territory the Power of Attorney is limited generally to matters of finance and property.

“A living will allows Power of Attorney to extend to other matters such as medical treatment and the authority to intervene in other areas of a person’s life.

“We have raised this matter in Parliament and, despite promises to act, Labor has essentially done nothing.

“It is now time to have living wills passed into law so that people can make decisions about the future.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400