MEDIA RELEASE

Nicole Manison
SHADOW MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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AMBULANCE AND FIREFIGHTERS UNDER FIRE FROM CLP

Shadow Minister for Health, Nicole Manison, said the results of Territory Paramedics ballot today to start industrial action were just another example in a long line of workers unhappy with the CLP Government.

“Today Territory Paramedics, unhappy with conditions, decided in an overwhelming majority to begin industrial action,” Ms Manison said.

“They join firefighters, teachers, bus drivers, port workers and others frustrated with the narrow minded CLP Government thinking contract negotiations are all about money.”

Ms Manison said she is appalled at the Attorney-General John Elferink’s insinuation that Territory firefighters are engaging in industrial disputes for excessive personal gain.

“For all these groups it is not just about a fair days pay for a fair days work, it’s about conditions,” Ms Manison said.

“In some cases what is being offered does not match the increases in the cost of living being experienced across the Territory especially with mounting power prices.”

Ms Manison said the frustration of the CLP Government’s arrogance and failure to take stock of the needs of Territorians will harm the Territory if these workers choose to move interstate.

“We train the best, but to keep the best, wages need to be competitive,” Ms Manison said.

“Groups like the firefighters and paramedics are telling the CLP Government that they are not happy, but the Government simply does not listen.

“And in an appalling move, the CLP Government will deduct wages from firefighters if they participate in industrial action.

“These are the people the Territory relies on – the CLP Government needs to treat them with the respect they deserve.

“The CLP Government needs to look at its priorities and see the damage their bully boy tactics are causing.”

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