David Tollner, Member for Fong Lim
Treasurer

**NTCOSS report finds less people deterred from health care by cost**

7 July 2014

EMBARGOED UNTIL 1AM TUESDAY 8 JULY

A report by the NT Council of Social Services (NTCOSS) has found the number of people deferring visiting a GP because of cost has fallen dramatically under the Country Liberals Government.

NTCOSS found nearly 15 per cent of Territorians were deferring visiting a doctor in 2010-11 when the Labor Government was in power.

Treasurer Dave Tollner said the Territory’s high levels of employment and growing economy meant the affordability of health care was improving.

“The NTCOSS figures for 2012-13 show only about 4 per cent of people were making doctors visits because of the cost, this is amongst the lowest in the country and well below the national average identified by NTCOSS of nearly six per cent,” Mr Tollner said.

NTCOSS also found Territorians were also paying about the same on average than other Australians for health care, with Darwin residents paying about $80 a week, which NTCOSS found is “similar to what households pay in most other capital cities.”

NTCOSS has exposed that health prices in Darwin rose by more than 90% when Labor was in power.

Mr Tollner said despite the attempt to paint a bleak picture of health care costs in the Territory, NTCOSS own figures tell a much different story.

“What the NTCOSS report shows is how much worse health affordability was under the Labor Governments in the Territory and Canberra.”

“The improvement in the affordability of health services is one of the benefits of the growing economy the Country Liberals Government has delivered for Territorians.

“The Territory Government is aware of the cost of living pressures faced by Territorians but the NTCOSS report is a really poor attempt to blame the current government when its own figures show the issue was much worse under the former Labor administration,” Mr Tollner said.

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