John Elferink
Minister for Health

**Does Senator Peris want to compulsorily acquire Aboriginal land?**

7 March 2015

Health Minister John Elferink says Labor Senator Nova Peris needs to be open with Indigenous Territorians about her solution for the construction of health clinics in the bush.

On Tuesday night Senator Peris slapped the Northern Territory Government for delays in the building of the clinics.

“**I admit it – there are some delays,**” Minister Elferink said.

“**But what would Senator Peris have us do when some of the hold ups are around the land tenure issues for some of the clinics? And would she like us to trade off the land issues for consultations with the community?**

“**Would Senator Peris and Labor’s Ken Vowles like us to compulsorily acquire the land? Perhaps they think there should be changes to the Aboriginal Land Right and Native Titles Acts to allow for the title to be stripped from the communities and/or land councils.**

“**Would they like us to stop consulting with the communities and just build a template clinic on their land?**

“**What is their solution?**

“**My department works closely with the Australian Government from the planning through to the completion stages of all Australian Government funded infrastructure projects.**

“**Both the HHF Agreement and Project Management Plan allow for flexibility in milestones due to unforeseen factors and in anticipation of the complexities in remote project construction.**

“**I would hope the Labor members would not scaremonger on these important projects and instead be part of the solution.**

“**But they are intent on playing silly politics and not interested in finding ways forward.”**

**Media Contact:** Lorelei Fong Lim, 0400 165 743