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GILES SHOULD COME CLEAN ON DIALYSIS MONEY

Opposition Health Minister Lynne Walker has called on Chief Minister Adam Giles to reveal which Territory communities will benefit from $10 million in Federal funds for renal dialysis services.

“I am happy to see Adam Giles finally recognising this funding committed by the previous Labor Government should be spent out bush rather than in larger towns,” Ms Walker said.

“But he still won’t say where the funding will be spent and Health Minister John Elferink is completely silent on the issue.

“Community Services Minister Bess Price had said water supplies on remote communities weren’t good enough to support dialysis, but she seems to have finally read her brief on this and changed her mind.

“There has been an enormous amount of delay and confusion around this funding which is desperately needed to improve dialysis services in patient’s home communities.

“The CLP Government has dragged its heels for nearly three years on accepting this money and only last month it was revealed in Senate Estimates that NT had put up a last minute proposal to use the money to accommodate patients to come into towns like Alice Springs to receive treatment.

“Meanwhile we have renal patients living rough because they can’t get accommodation in town and there aren’t nearly enough dialysis services out bush.”

Ms Walker said providers such as Western Desert Dialysis had developed clear proposals on where the money could be most effectively spent to provide new services.

“The CLP Government has already had to return $3 million to the Commonwealth from the original commitment of $13 million.
“Adam Giles needs to reveal whether the NT Government is supporting the proposal by providers that would see dialysis in seven new sites and an extension of services in two communities.

“Or is there a whole other scenario that is being looked at that will result in even more delays with this desperately needed funding?”

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