Predicted Labor Health blowout

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In one Policy paper Labor have spent more than half of the Territory’s budget and more than the total combined Health budget.

“Their gross mismanagement of funds will send the Territory back into the red,” Minister for Health John Elferink said.

“This is what Territorians can expect from a Labor government, debt and no responsible economic management.”

In their recently launched Healthy, Strong Communities paper, Labor have documented that they will replace the Territory’s only Tertiary hospital, the Royal Darwin Hospital.

Under the Giles Government plans are currently underway at Royal Darwin Hospital with $64 million going towards upgrades and improvements including an upgraded 44-bed paediatrics unit, a new allied health facility and upgrades to the entrance and foyer areas.

Mr Elferink said that “replacing Royal Darwin Hospital with an equivalent facility in the Northern Territory would take approximately seven years to construct and cost Territorians up to $2 billion dollars.”

“This single project equates to almost half of the Territory’s budget and is more than the total recurrent health budget.”

“Labor is determined to bankrupt the Territory and they cannot be trusted.”

Labor’s calculations to build a multi-level car parking facility were short by $20 million. In the recent Infrastructure to Enable Growth plan only $10 million has been set aside to build a $30 million project.

Construction of the Palmerston Regional Hospital is well underway with progress being made daily.

Mr Elferink encouraged Opposition Members to request a site visit to see first-hand the progress underway at the hospital site, which is double the size of Labors' proposed site and will cater to the growing population of Palmerston and the rural area.

Labor have neglected to show any interest in the new Palmerston Regional Hospital which will provide state-of-the-art health services and jobs to the people of Palmerston and the rural area.

“The fact of the matter is that in 11 years they never built the Palmerston Regional Hospital,” Mr Elferink said.
Minister Elferink said that he was flattered that Labor endorsed the great work that was currently being rolled out in Health and that they would continue with this Government’s plan, particularly in the childhood and mental health space and the roll out of TeleHealth services across remote communities.

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