MEDIA RELEASE
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SHADOW MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

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Why Is John Elferink Still A Minister?

Unfounded and highly offensive claims by CLP Health Minister, John Elferink, that a hospital patient’s concern over treatment was a stunt to boost record sales are beyond the pale and should result in his sacking from the Health Portfolio, Shadow Minister for Government Accountability Nicole Manison said today.

“In any other jurisdiction in the country, any other health minister would be stood down for such offensive comments,” Ms Manison said.

“The fact that John Elferink remains a CLP Minister is testament to Adam Giles’ lack of leadership and strength.

“This latest misinformed and offensive comment is yet another in an ever growing list of failures and scandals for which the CLP’s John Elferink is responsible.

“Chief Minister Adam Giles must sack his Minister, John Elferink, today, for a range of reasons including, but not limited to:

- As Health Minister for making unfounded and offensive comments about a patient at Royal Darwin Hospital;
- As Health Minister for his highly insensitive comments surrounding the death of a remote nurse;
- As Minister for Disability Services for mocking a hearing impaired person;
- As a Minister in general for his insensitive comments towards senior Territorians during seniors month by suggested funds be cut to treat the elderly in their final stages of life;
- As Minister for Children and Families for threatening to ‘slap’ a female parliamentarian;
- As Minister for Children and Families for being dumped as a white ribbon ambassador by the white ribbon association;
- As Minister for Corrections for presiding over 36 prison escapees in 18 months under his watch;
- As Minister for Corrections for allowing a convicted axe murderer and rapist to be housed in a low security facility 500 metres from a community;
- As Minister for Health for closing down an important residential health facility in Nhulunbuy and converting it to a 50 bed prison for low level offenders with no community consultation prior to this decision;
- As Minister for Health for his expensive and poorly thought out and implemented Alcohol Mandatory Treatment program;
- As Minister for Corrections over damming findings about the functioning of the Youth Justice system by the independent Vita Review;
- As Minister for Corrections for saying two Indigenous people who died in custody would have otherwise died in the “gutter”;
- As Minister for Children and Corrections over horrific findings by the Children’s Commissioner about the treatment of youths at Don Dale, including ongoing confinement in inhumane conditions;
- As Minister for Children and Corrections over 3 disruptive relocations of youths in detention in one year;
- As Minister for Corrections over the Department of Correctional Services $34 million budget blow out;
- As Minister for Corrections over his failure to meet the majority of his own performance targets in Corrections and Juvenile Justice last financial year;
- As Minister for Health for orchestrating a media stunt to fool the community and the Commonwealth that construction had started at Palmerston Hospital;
- As Minister for Corrections for placing vulnerable children in danger by lowering the target for investigations to commence within 24 hours from 100% to 85% for Priority 1 Child in Danger notifications.

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