Media Release
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Playing games with people’s lives

The Coalition Government’s $15 million Federal election commitment to deliver a PET scanner and cyclotron to Darwin included co-locating both pieces of equipment in a purpose-built facility at the Alan Walker Cancer Centre.

“The Coalition wanted the Territory to have a PET scanner and cyclotron because the two pieces of equipment complement each other,” says Opposition Leader Gary Higgins.

“There is any amount of available material that shows patient outcomes are far better when a PET scanner and cyclotron are co-located.

“By scrapping the cyclotron and only delivering a PET scanner the Labor Government is robbing Territorians of a crucial piece of health infrastructure that enables cancer treatment.

“The Health Minister’s claim that the $15 million promised by the Coalition would only deliver a PET scanner is questionable. My understanding is that a PET scanner would cost approximately $3 million and a cyclotron about twice that amount.

“The remaining $6 million from the Commonwealth’s $15 million commitment would cover building costs. If a second building was required for the cyclotron, the cost would be substantially increased.

“The Health Minister said today she initially thought it made sense for the PET scanner to be located at the Alan Walker Cancer Centre but then received advice from the Department to relocate to the hospital.

“Minister Fyles should release the full content of that advice she received from the Department, go with her first instincts and locate the PET scanner and cyclotron at the Alan Walker centre.”

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