4th April 2005

Minister Toyne must react to colleague’s criticism of lack of resources at RDH

The Shadow Minister for Health Jodeen Carney has demanded that the Minister for Family and Community Services directs her complaints about the long waiting time in Accident and Emergency at Royal Darwin Hospital to her counterpart, the Minister for Health Peter Toyne as soon as possible.

Ms. Carney said that her own press release on the 15th March this year alerted the Minister for Health and the whole Labor government to nurses concerns that an avoidable death in the Emergency department was going to happen unless immediate action was taken.

“Marion Scrymgour should be thanking the fact that she has private health care after witnessing first hand the deplorable situation at RDH Emergency department,” Ms. Carney said.

“However, not all Territorians can afford private health cover and it is now obvious that the Minister has to address this problem right now rather than trot out more promises and false assurances.

“Minister Toyne continually asserts that all is fine at the Hospital and there are enough beds, nurses and resources available. However, maybe with this episode, the Labor government will finally admit there are serious problems in our hospitals.

“Ms. Scrymgour’s comments are a damning indictment on Minister Toyne’s inept handling of the Health portfolio and the Chief Minister must act to pull the Health Minister into line.”