Jodeen Carney  
Shadow Attorney-General,  
Shadow Minister for Justice, and Health

Fears for patient safety claim nurses at Royal Darwin Hospital

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Nurses at the Royal Darwin Hospital fear for patient’s safety, Country Liberal Party Health Spokeswoman, Jodeen Carney said today.

Ms Carney has received several emails, phone calls and letters from nurses at the Hospital expressing their concerns. One letter states: “If no action is taken to rectify this deplorable situation, undoubtedly there will be an avoidable death within the Emergency Department”.

Ms Carney said that nurses want better resources and more bed numbers. The Health Minister has publicly said that there are 345 beds at RDH, but a count undertaken by nurses came up with only 279.

“The Government has to start being honest about our hospitals, and needs to support the hard-working staff who are being pushed to the limit. Industrial action continues at the Alice Springs Hospital, and nurses at RDH tell me that they are close to walking off the job”, Ms. Carney said.

“The Minister wants to pretend that everything is fine, when it’s not. He must get serious about addressing the problems instead of sticking to his mantra that things are marvellous under his watch when they are not. He should open the wards that are closed: that would be a start”, Ms Carney said.

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