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Ambulance Service in Jeopardy While Labor Spends Up Big on Self-Promotion

The Country Liberal Party Shadow Minister for Health Jodeen Carney has demanded the Labor government change their funding priorities to address real needs in the local community. The St. John Ambulance service has revealed that the Labor government has chronically under-funded the service to the tune of over $750,000 in 2003/04.

Ms. Carney said that the Labor government have got their priorities wrong when instead of providing the St John Ambulance service with extra funding to cover increase demand and costs, they prefer to spend it on themselves. Ms Carney pointed out to the fact that the Labor government spent thousands of tax-payers dollars on gratuitous self-promotion in Saturday’s NT News alone.

“The Labor government has its priorities just wrong. It is not prepared to provide enough money to keep the Ambulance service up to scratch. Every person in the Territory should be very concerned about this because it means that if you need an Ambulance, it will take longer to get to your suburb, it may not have the best-trained staff and the Ambulance may not have the best equipment,” Ms. Carney said.

“Instead of giving people in our suburbs the best Ambulance care, the Labor government prefers to give priority to:

- An extra 30 political staff in her office, causing a blow-out in costs of almost $4 million,
- Production of glossy brochures and fliers that tell the community nothing,
- Spending thousands of dollars of tax-payers money on newspaper and television advertisements in preparation for the election.

“The Labor government is more interested in looking after itself than providing the necessary funding for a critically important Ambulance service for Territorians.”