Rudd takes aim at Federalism

The new Federal Opposition leader is prepared to risk the checks and balances of our federal system just to try an oust John Howard from the Prime Ministership according to Shadow Minister Dr Richard Lim.

"The hint by the Federal Opposition Leader that he is interested in a Labor Commonwealth Government taking over the control of all public hospitals in the States and Territories should be viewed by the NT Labor Government as a dangerous precedent and is nothing more than a cynical attempt to centralise government in this country." Dr Lim said.

"It is bad enough that we are a Territory and subject to the whims of the Commonwealth Government when it considers that our laws are not in line with its own.

"With a Labor Commonwealth Government, there will be a bureaucracy based in Canberra, over 5000km away, managing the Territory's health system.

"Electorate based spending will mean that under whatever Government is in power in Canberra, we will get nothing more than cast offs because of our small electoral base.

"There will be no protection from a Labor Canberra's whim to deprive us from our desperately needed resources.

"Rudd is calling for Education and Health to be effectively handed over by the Territory to his Labor Government. After that he'll want Police and that will make the states and territories nothing more than very large local councils.

"In his first words to the media after becoming the Leader of the Opposition, Rudd signalled that the federation was an area he wanted to concentrate on.

"If Rudd has his way the Territory will be returned to the pre-1978 administration that made it a back water in Canberra's eyes.

"It's clear that the ALP Conga Line, including Martin, Snowden and Crossin, will form up behind Rudd, and the Territory will sign up, betraying the fact that it is ALP first and the Territory second.

"It's time for Clare Martin, Warren Snowdon and Trish Crossin to tell us where they stand. Do they stand for the Territory or do they stand for Canberra control?"