BURNING CLARE’S CREDIBILITY ON HEALTH

The Territory Opposition is calling on the Chief Minister, Clare Martin, to see for herself the situation at Royal Darwin Hospital’s Emergency Department.

News that part of the RDH’s foyer has been converted into treatment bays is just the latest evidence of a hospital at breaking point.

“What will it take to get the Chief Minister to take the crisis in the health system seriously – people being treated in RDH’s car park?” asks Leader of the Opposition, Jodeen Carney.

“RDH has been under intense pressure for most of this year but the Chief Minister has studiously avoided accepting responsibility for the issue.

“With her Health Minister, Chris Burns, out of his depth and floundering, the time has come for the Chief Minister to take a direct interest in solving the crisis.

“Claire Martin must get a first hand appreciation of the problems at RDH; an unscheduled visit would be very good place to begin.

“None of the problems currently being experienced at RDH should come as a surprise to the Chief Minister.

“As far back as February the 5th my colleague, Dr Richard Lim, was warning of 1100 shift shortfalls at RDH for the month of February.

“When that shortage began impacting on the amount of overtime nurses were working, the Health Minister pretended that complaints from nurses were little more than a stunt to get a better pay deal from the Government.

“Taking a page for her bumbling Health Minister’s playbook, the Chief Minister tried a similar ploy when confronted with Friday’s criticism by the Federal AMA.

“Rather than denying the extent of the problem the Government needs to confront it.”

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