NUSRING THE SYSTEM BACK TO HEALTH

Dr Richard Lim, Shadow Minister for Health, has introduced a Bill designed to improve the delivery of quality health services to Territorians by developing a category of specialist nurses capable of performing high level duties.

"In essence my Health Practitioner Amendment (Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2007 will allow appropriately qualified nurses to deliver medical treatment that currently can only be delivered under the supervision of qualified doctors," says Dr Lim.

"By empowering nurse practitioners to perform tasks such as ordering a range of x-rays and blood tests, prescribing some antibiotics and repairing minor wounds, we would create a higher level of medical service across the Territory.

"My Bill will have its greatest benefit in the bush, were nurse practitioners will be able to fill a substantial gap in the provision of necessary medical services.

"Indeed many registered nurses in remote areas are currently at the limits of the law with regard to some of the medical services they are providing.

"My Bill has the enthusiastic support of the Northern Territory Nurses Federation and qualified backing from the Northern Territory AMA."

"Under my Bill registered nurses would undertake further University courses to qualify as a nurse practitioner and work within a health team.

"Developing greater professional options for nurses with additional pay is an added benefit of the proposal."

Further comment: Richard Lim 0418 897 059