STRIKING AT GOVERNMENT INCOMPETENCE

Territory nurses are certain to vote in favour of industrial action in an effort to secure decent pay and safe working conditions from the Martin Government, says the Opposition.

“Having made Darwin the inflation capital of Australia, it is bloody minded of the Government to expect nurses to accept a pay offer that is, in effect, a pay cut,” says Richard Lim, Shadow Minister for Health.

“Nurses are too valuable and there are already too many problems with retaining the nurses we have, as well as recruiting new staff, to insult them with a totally inadequate workplace agreement.

“Why should our dedicated nurses accept a 3% pay offer from a Government that is running inflation at 5%?”

“Why is the Government calling for Territory nurses to take a pay-cut and at the same time be expected to work ridiculously long and unsafe hours to overcome staff shortages created by Government mismanagement?

“The failure to put a realistic offer on the table in the first instance is the principle reason the nurses will now vote for industrial action.

“That failure was exacerbated by the ridiculous decision of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment to ballot nurses directly on the workplace agreement.

“The OCPE’s decision only deepened the feelings of insult within the nursing community and has hardened their resolve to hold out for a better offer.

“The Government needs to put a decent offer to the nurses.

“Until it does, all Territorians will pay the price of the Government’s incompetence in the form of decreased services from our public hospitals.”

Contact: Dr Richard Lim 0418 897 688