BUMBLING BURNS SPURNS REQUEST

Dr Richard Lim, Shadow Minister for Health, has again been denied permission to assess for himself the crisis at Royal Darwin Hospital.

“Twice in two days the Minister for Health, Chris Burns, has acted to conceal the real state of affairs at Royal Darwin Hospital,” says Dr Lim.

“This time the official response to my request to visit RDH was that nurses and doctors are too busy to afford anytime to speak with me.

“What nonsense. As a doctor with more than 30 years experience in and around hospitals I would never impose myself on the staff to the detriment of patient care.

“The reality is that the Minister has denied me access because he can’t afford to have the truth known about the crisis engulfing RDH.

“In an attempt to smother the story about the health crisis, the Minister wraps himself in the cloak of ignorance.

“That’s why the Minister has consistently failed to answer straight forward questions on staffing numbers for doctors and nurses, recruitment and retention figures and the amount of overtime being worked.

“That’s why the Minister implies that the Nurses Federation, the Australian Medical Association and the Opposition are exaggerating the extent of the problems.

“It has now got to the point where the Minister only manages to make himself look incompetent when he ducks and weaves around the facts.

“There is no excuse for the Minister for Health not knowing how many nurses and doctors are employed at RDH, how many more there are than at this time last year and how many hours of overtime are being worked per week.

“Wilful ignorance is plausible for only so long. Time has run out for Minister Burns.”

Contact: Dr Richard Lim 0418 897 688