How Many Apologies and How Many Broken Promises
Must Cancer Patients Bear?

Once more, the Martin Labor Government has failed Territorians by failing to provide the oncology unit that it promised before the 2001 general election and in four consecutive Territory Budgets, Dr Richard Lim, the Shadow Minister for Health said.

“The Health Minister keeps promising to do better and keeps reassuring Territorians that an oncology unit is in the offing, but has not delivered in spite budget allocations to fund the establishment of a unit at the Royal Darwin Hospital,” Dr Lim said.

“$14million promised by the Martin Labor Government for an Oncology unit has not seen the light of day, and now the Minister says that it is not viable.

“It appears that the Minister is oblivious to the 250 patients who have to travel interstate for treatment.

“These patients and their families have lived in hope that the Martin Labor Government will deliver an Oncology Unit each year, to no avail.

“The Opposition applauds the recruitment of two new clinicians to support patients with cancer, however the question has to be asked, ‘How long will they stay?’

“Dr Selva left after 13 years of service because he felt betrayed by this government’s failure to keep its promise. Will we face the same situation with the two new clinicians?

“The Martin Labor Government has received $750million GST windfall over the past 5 year, yet tells us that it has not the finance to develop the Oncology unit.

“Now we hear that the Minister is seeking funding from the Commonwealth Government to for the unit.

“The Opposition is in discussions with the Member for Solomon, David Tollner and supports the work he continues to undertake to gain Territorians an Oncology Unit that the Martin Labor Government has not honoured since 2001. Where is the 14 million dollars that they promised in the last Budget?

“It is obvious the Martin Labor Government is unable to deliver on it's promise.”

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