5th July 2005

Health Minister Unaware of Happenings at Alice Springs Hospital

The Health Minister Peter Toyne again showed today why the Hospital system in the Territory is under pressure.

When asked how many anaesthetists were locums at the Alice Springs Hospital, the Minister on advice from his departmental staff, including the General Manager of the ASH, responded that there were none.

Country Liberal Party Shadow Minister Dr. Richard Lim queried the Minister's response and, after a flurry of activity by departmental staff, the General Manager of the ASH produced a paper that indicated that there was one locum specialist anaesthetist at the ASH at this moment.

Dr. Lim said, “It goes to show that the administration of the ASH is not across the issues at the hospital. They had given the Minister wrong advice until corrected by myself. It just goes to demonstrate that the administration of the hospital is not aware of what is happening at the hospital on a day to day basis.

“The Minister should know who and what professionals are in each hospital.”

Doctor Lim formerly had a medical practice in Alice Springs and served at the hospital for many years.