A HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

The Territory Opposition has a healthy scepticism of Federal Labor’s plan to take total control of the health system in all States and Territories.

“The last time Canberra had a decisive say at the Royal Darwin Hospital we ended up with snow shutters on the windows of a hospital in the tropics,” says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.

“In fact the RDH is a copy of a hospital built in Canberra, which itself was a copy of a hospital built in freezing cold Canada.

“That is the danger of transferring responsibility for the delivery of health services from the Territory Government to Canberra – half-arsed decisions based on convenience of the planners not the needs of the people.

“I note the Chief Minister, Clare Martin, is over the moon about Federal Labor’s proposal.

“The Chief Minister’s enthusiasm says more about the inept performance of the Martin Labor Government in delivering health care for Territorians than the merits of a centralised healthcare system.

‘Indeed today the Martin Government made a re-announcement of a re-announcement of an election promise to open an additional 24 beds at RDH.

“In the meantime we have had patients being examined in the back of ambulances in parking bays at the RDH.

“We have also seen patients being nursed and examined behind office dividers in the waiting room of Emergency at RDH.

“With a river of revenue flowing into the Martin Government’s coffers, these desperate measures provided stark illustrations of Ministerial mismanagement of our public hospital system.

“No wonder the Chief Minister is delighted at the prospect of the Federal Government taking over responsibility for Territory hospitals.

“Of course when we end up with facilities designed for the southern climate, the Chief Minister will tut, tut as if it’s nothing to do with her.”

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