ANGRY HALE NOT SO HEARTY

It’s hardly surprising that Labor Member for Solomon, Damian Hale, doesn’t know how much it costs to fly locum GPs from interstate to work at the so-called Palmerston Super Clinic – he just doesn’t appear to care.

Shadow Health Minister Matt Conlan said judging by Damian Hale’s angry outburst at the Henderson Government last week after the Chief Minister criticised the Federal budget, he’s happy to leave the burden of paying for the GPs to Territory Labor.

“On ABC radio this morning, Damian Hale admitted he didn’t know what the GPs cost taxpayers to fly-in, fly-out,” Mr Conlan said.

“A quick look at some recent Territory Government Gazettes would have helped him answer this easy question.

“For example, the cost to fly in a GP from Fremantle to work between March 16th and March 28th was $21,549.

“Between February 2nd and February 14th it cost $24,570 to fly in the same locum.”

Mr Conlan said in 2001 Labor closed the after hours clinic the Country Liberals had opened in Palmerston.

“It was then that Paul Henderson, Kon Vatskalis and Labor dropped the ball on providing adequate after-hours health services in Palmerston,” Mr Conlan said.

“Because of the lack of continuity, now Labor’s desperately trying to play catch-up.”

Further comment: Matt Conlan 0408 805 338