14 October 2009

NT Government makes Significant Reforms To Health System

Health Minister Kon Vatskalis today said that the Henderson Government has made significant reforms and improvements in the health system, with an additional 127 hospital beds and the opening of several wards since 2001 – despite claims made by the AMA’s ‘report card’.

“The AMA is using outdated statistics and has got it wrong,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“Labor Government has delivered an additional 127 beds across the NT since 2001, and has opened several hospital wards in that period including Ward 3B with 30 news beds – a ward closed by the CLP 15 years ago.

“This Government also opened the 24 bed Rapid Admission Unit to relieve pressure on the Emergency Department in 2007, the 12 bed Hospice in 2005, and a 12 bed short stay unit in Alice Springs this year.”

Mr Vatskalis also condemned the AMA for failing to recognise that the NT Emergency Departments are the busiest in Australia.

“Territory hospitals have the busiest Emergency Departments in Australia,” Mr Vatskalis said. “In fact the number of people presenting to ED is more than double than national average.

“However what the AMA fails to acknowledge is that this Government has introduced many strategies to manage this demand, including the After Hours Palmerston Superclinic, the Rapid Admission Unit, opening extra beds and improved triage area to treat patients.”

Mr Vatskalis added that the ‘report card’ did not address the recent initiatives funded as part of the Australian Government Elective Surgery Waitlist Reduction Plan.

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746