Health Minister Kon Vatskalis should apologise for his slippery response to questions about the scope and nature of Palmerston’s 24-hour GP Super Clinic.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, said Mr Vatskalis gave an assurance during the August Parliamentary sittings that the Super Clinic would be a 24 hour operation.

Mr Vatskalis said: ‘… yes, it will be a 24-hour clinic’.

But instead of being 24hours, the Clinic brochure shows it opens at 8am and closes at 6pm.

“This falls someway short of a Super Clinic – it’s more like an ordinary GP clinic,” Mr Mills said.

While there’s nothing wrong with that per se, it’s another example of Labor shamelessly playing politics with health.

The clinic was a key plank in Kevin Rudd’s 2007 election campaign. Almost three years later he’s been bumped and the new facility has fallen well short of expectations.

The clinic’s secretive opening on Monday confirms the Government has oversold and under-delivered.

“In 2007, Kevin Rudd promised the clinic would have chronic disease and complex care management services, outpatient services, dental services and allied health services including physiotherapy, dieticians and podiatry.

“A visit to the clinic confirms that just isn’t the case.

“In fact, there’s not even an x-ray, which would be an essential item in any so-called ‘super clinic’.

“The residents of Palmerston should never forget that it was this Labor Government that closed the after-hours, bulk-billing clinic in Farrar because they said there wasn’t the demand.”

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