*Correction: CLP Government Turns its Back on Renal Patients*

The Territory Director of Renal Services Dr Greg Perry did not say the move is short-sighted as mentioned in the previous press release. Dr Greg Perry did however say - in contrast to Robyn Lambley's comment that the Katherine Hospital's renal unit is under utilised - that the Hospital's renal unit is at full capacity.

"THERE IS A WAITING LIST, APPROXIMATELY 12-18 MONTHS."

The statement should have been referenced to Dr Bruce Hocking from Wurli-Wurlinjang Aboriginal Health Service, who said that the CLP Government's decision is short-sighted given the mounting need for dialysis services, saying:

"IT'S BEEN DESCRIBED AS A TSUNAMI. ITS JUST GROWING."

Corrected Release:

**Lynne Walker**

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Policy

**CLP Government Turns its Back on Renal Patients**

Over the last decade, renal services have been significantly expanded throughout the Territory.

As a direct result, life expectancy of renal patients over this time has increased by 7 years, bringing them into line with the rest of the country.

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Policy, Lynne Walker, said recent critical improvements for Territorian renal patients will be lost with the CLP turning its back on renal services.

"The CLP Government's decision to delay a new renal dialysis facility for Katherine is short-sighted and will directly impact on the lives and quality of life of many people," Ms Walker said.

CLP Treasurer Robyn Lambley justified her decision to postpone the much needed facility with the absurd claim that most people prefer to make the trip to Darwin for treatment, adding that the current facilities in Katherine are being under utilised.

"In my experience, it is Territorians preference to access health services close to their own family and community rather than making the long trip to Darwin for treatment," Ms Lambley said.

"In further contrast to Ms Lambley's comment that the Katherine unit is under utilised, the Director of Renal Services, Doctor Greg Perry, says the existing Katherine unit is operating at full capacity, with a 12 to 18 month waiting list, indicating that the CLP Treasurer is completely out of touch with the situation in Katherine or just not interested."

Dr Bruce Hocking from Wurli-Wurlinjang Aboriginal Health Service, said that the CLP Government's decision is short-sighted given the mounting need for dialysis services.
When the previous Labor Government announced expanded renal services in Katherine, local CLP member for Katherine, Willem Westra Van Holthe bitterly complained. Mr Van Holthe said he did not believe that Katherine would be an appropriate place for indigenous Territorians to receive health care, saying: “I’m a realist insofar as understanding the nature of the clients who will largely be visiting a facility. And I’m a realist with respect to the kind of behavior that can be attracted by some Aboriginal people.”

“One has to wonder what newly elected local members Bess Price and Larissa Lee think of this decision. It is their constituents who will be most affected. It is their constituents whose life expectancy will be compromised. Were they even consulted?

“The CLP have put the misguided sensibilities of a handful of Katherine residents ahead of the health and wellbeing of many indigenous Territorians.”

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