TIME FOR CLP TO OUTLINE PLANS FOR CLOSING THE GAP

Following the release of the latest National report card on Closing the Gap targets it’s time for the CLP Government to outline exactly what their plans are to build upon the progress made to date, Shadow Minister for Indigenous Policy Lynne Walker said today.

“The report highlights that for the second year in a row, that the NT is the only jurisdiction in Australia on track to meet Closing the Gap targets in Indigenous life expectancy by 2031. Diabetes and kidney disease are two critical health issues for Indigenous Territorians,” Ms Walker said.

“The results show that the former Labor government – and the Indigenous health sector - have been heading in the right direction providing health services targeting these core health issues.

“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. That progress is now at risk with the Giles government refusing to work with the Commonwealth in delivering further improvements to kidney health services.

“The Giles government is putting politics before family health and denying people access to new kidney health services in our regional centres such as a new facility that was planned for Katherine. It’s now time for him to tell Territorians what he intends to do instead.

“How can local indigenous members of the CLP like Larissa Lee and Bess Price stand by and allow Adam Giles to refuse funds from the Commonwealth that would see real services delivered in their own communities – saving needless suffering and misery.

“Adam Giles’ lack of leadership on this issue is shameful and his failure to act will inevitably lead to preventable deaths,” Ms Walker said.

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