HOSPITAL REPORT DUE TODAY AND MUST BE MADE PUBLIC

Under the formal agreement signed with the Commonwealth, the CLP are due to deliver a progress on the construction of the Palmerston Hospital to the Commonwealth by today.

According to the agreement signed between the Federal Government and the CLP, the bi-annual report: "must be certified by an appropriate Northern Territory Delegate as being a true and accurate representation of the progress of the project for the relevant reporting period."

“Given the continued delays, cost blow-outs and uncertainty around the Palmerston Hospital, I am calling on this important milestone report to be made public,” said Michael Gunner.

“Territorians are sick of the cover up. They deserve to know what is the true and accurate representation of the progress – a tender for a water pipe won’t cut it.

“The CLP have delayed the Palmerston Hospital by several years and these delays mean the project now has $50 million blackhole.

“This is placing enormous extra pressure on an already overcrowded RDH and Territorians can expect further bedblock, increased waiting times and wait lists.

“The Territory Labor government had planned to have a new hospital in Palmerston opening late this year, specifically designed to be expanded on as demand for services increased.

“In 2013 Adam Giles said that by 2015/16 the greater Darwin region will require an additional 114 overnight hospital beds and 123 same day beds. 2015/16 is six weeks away and he has delivered zero beds and a tender for a water pipe.

“If the CLP refuse to release the report then the Commonwealth Government should release it. Natasha Griggs told local media earlier this week that she is confident the project is on track, therefore she should have no issues with “a true and accurate representation of progress” being made available to the public.

“There is nothing preventing that this report be made public.

“Natasha Griggs and Adam Giles both go to the polls next year. Territorians have reason to be suspicious that they will deliberately delay the extra funding required to try and make it an election sweetener.

“If this is their strategy then they are putting the health of their re-election chances ahead of the health of Territorians. That’s enough to make anyone sick.”

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