2nd June 2005

Health matters: From Crisis to Confidence
A Better Hospital System

A Country Liberal Party government will improve medical services across the Territory and restore health services to a level that the Territory community expects.

Releasing part of the Country Liberal Party’s policy on health – A Better Hospital System – Leader Denis Burke said that under Labor, Territory health and medical services had never received so much funding but delivered so little improvement.

“The Labor government have managed to do the almost impossible – deliver fewer services with more money.

Under Labor, the Health budget has increased over 50% since 2001 but Territorians have seen a reduction in services.

For example, waiting lists for elective surgery have increased by 1% in the last four years under Labor while the nationally, waiting lists have fallen. It’s just not good enough.

The Country Liberal Party will restore proven initiatives such as community nurses visiting mothers, drug and alcohol programs and rehabilitation services. We will ensure that our health dollar is spent wisely.
Further, the policy also includes:

- Reopening hospital wards to improve the current bed crisis that Labor has overseen,
- Expanding the Hospital in the Home program,
- Improving access to specialist medical services including a full public cardiovascular facility within four years with upgraded Oncology facilities to follow,
- Acceleration of full service availability for common specialist services,
- A comprehensive package to recruit and retain nurses,
- Increase the scope for increased medical, nursing and allied health practitioners to levels experienced in other states, and
- Increase community-based health services such as nursing support and respite care.

For the Territory to grow, prosper and reach its economic potential, we need a health system that provides services at levels seen in other states and territories.