Medicos trading barbs

By ZACH HOPE

RIGHT-TO-DIE doctor Philip Nitschke says a meeting to expel him from the Australian Medical Association NT branch is nothing but a late-night kangaroo court.

His opponent, AMA NT boss Dr Robert Parker, says the controversial doc is only playing more games.

In the latest stoush between Dr Nitschke and medical authority, the AMA NT will postpone its attempt to expel him until the new year, citing reams of information dumped on its eve of the hearing — originally scheduled for last night.

It comes just weeks after an appeals tribunal retired to consider Dr Nitschke’s protest against the Medical Board of Australia’s decision to suspend his registration.

In an email sent to Dr Nitschke on Sunday night the AMA NT requested for him to appear at 5.40pm yesterday at an AMA NT council meeting.

Dr Nitschke said the email had attached two articles about mood disorders and suicide and also informed him he was to have 15 minutes to present his case.

He said the information in the email was new and he had not been given time to prepare.

“That all happened on the weekend and somehow I’m expected to get it all together within, seemingly, about 24 hours,” Dr Nitschke said. “I’m not terribly comfortable.”

Dr Parker said Dr Nitschke had been aware of the AMA NT’s intentions.

“We’ve got an email trail that shows he was well informed about the meeting — weeks ago,” Dr Parker said.

“There’s a lot of game playing going on – he’s a master of it … we delayed it until (last night) and he’s suddenly given us all this material the day before the meeting and our members don’t have a chance to review it – it’s been given us about 180 pages of this stuff.”

Dr Parker said Dr Nitschke had also been informed of the postponement, which Dr Nitschke denied.

Nitschke’s latest salvo in war of words

TERRITORY mos are the most lucrative in Australia with one Darwin moustache raking in more than $50,000 in donations for Movember.

The platinum mo belongs to Darwin businessman Nick Halkitis, who is finishing off Movember with the top spot on the Australian individual fundraiser leaderboard.

The HB Group director raised more than $50,800 for the cause so far this year and he was hoping to crack the $58,000 mark in the final days of fundraising.

According to the Movember Foundation, Mr Halkitis’s hard work helped push the average donation of a Territory moustache to $98, the highest in the country.

Mr Halkitis said he started participating in Movember five years ago, raising $7000 in his first year, and has raised more than $65,000,000 for the charity.

Anyone wanting to donate to Mr Halkitis can go to his fundraising page, mobo.co/nickhalkitis, until December 31. For information on men’s health visit au.movember.com/mens-health.

Darwin’s Nick Halkitis has been ranked Australia’s No.1 in fundraising donations for the month of Movember.

Great mo bro, worth $50k easy

ILMA Ali is losing her locks for charity.

Durack’s Ilma Ali is chopping off her curls for a good cause.

The Durack woman is trying to raise $3000 for the Prishan Foundation, which has built an orphanage for girls and a home for blind children in India.

Ms Ali, 26, says she’s not afraid of the clippers.

“It hasn’t quite dawned on me yet,” she said. “I’ve been wanting to do this for over a year now, and I thought doing this would make a big impact.”

Her hair will be donated to a wig maker, who will turn it into a wig for a cancer patient.

Ms Ali’s friend, Narges Ash- tari, founded the Prishan Foundation in 2010, and named it after a blind Sri Lankan boy she met in Sri Lanka.

Ms Ash tari said that over the years, the foundation had helped thousands of children in need.

Money raised will go towards ensuring the organisation’s independence and the construction of another orphanage.

Ms Ali, who has Sri Lankan heritage, said the plight of orphans and the disabled in the developing world was heart-breaking.

“Knowing someone who is actively doing work there, I know the money will get through and make a difference,” she said.

Donations can be made at indigo.com/projects/give-a-darn.