The CLP will censure the Martin Labor Government in Parliament tomorrow (Tuesday) over the Alice Springs Hospital crisis.

CLP Leader Terry Mills said Health Minister Peter Toyne must carry the blame for the crisis for failing to show the leadership and support hospital staff has asked from him.

“The censure will focus on the Martin Government's inability to manage the deepening crisis and its failure to give over worked staff proper support,” Mr Mills said.

“Health Minister Toyne will be made to account for not telling Territorians the truth about the closure of the Intensive Care Unit in the Alice Springs Hospital, particularly given the deaths of two patients.

“It may well be that these two people would have died even if they had received full ICU care. But the fact that staff have contacted the press raising concerns is too serious to ignore.

“These deaths have occurred after the Health Minister gave his assurance that the Intensive Care Unit in Alice Springs Hospital was open and emergency patients were being serviced as they always have been.

“The Minister's admission that the ICU had not been operating for four or five days, despite his claims to the contrary, warrants censure alone.

“The CLP has been campaigning on behalf of staff for many months for the Martin Government to act on the crisis at Alice Springs Hospital. It's now out of control and the mismanagement of the Martin Government is to blame.

“Alice Springs Hospital has always had an ICU and it's never closed before. The Martin Government's inability to adequately recruit and retain critical care staff has been brewing for many months. The Government's only response has been to ignore the concerns of staff and deny the problems. Yet within the next month there may well be no anaesthetists at all on the Alice Springs Hospital's staff.

“It is absurd to think that the Alice Springs Hospital has no specialist
anaesthetists, no intensive care specialists, yet the Government is now allowing the crisis to deepen by trying to kick out the hospital's only Emergency Medicine specialist.

“The Government deserves to be censured for the disgraceful way it has let the staff, patients and people of Alice Springs down. If Government were truly serious about supporting the staff and the people of Alice Springs to continue to provide high-class care in Alice Springs Hospital it would not have allowed these problems to go on for more than nine months.”

Ends