

**MATT CONLAN**  
**SHADOW HEALTH MINISTER**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

# **ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER**

The Henderson Government's commitment to providing an adequate, reliable and effective after-hours medical service in Palmerston is in tatters with revelations the so-called Super Clinic has been without a General Practitioner over several evenings in the past week.

Shadow Health Minister Matt Conlan said the absence of a GP showed the Labor Government isn't serious about delivering after-hours health services in Palmerston.

According to a report on ABC radio this morning, the GP component of the Super Clinic was closed on Sunday night and again last night because the doctor was sick.

"It's absurd that only one doctor is available at the clinic each night," Mr Conlan said.

"There's an obvious expectation that the GP on the roster doesn't get sick. Clearly, this is ludicrous.

"The Australian Medical Association warned of this scenario when the Super Clinic opened last December, but the Government refused to listen."

Mr Conlan said it was costing Territory taxpayers more than \$12,000 every week to fly-in fly-out GPs to operate the Super Clinic.

"In 2001, Labor closed the after-hours health clinic launched by the Country Liberals – and have been playing catch-up ever since," he said.

"It again brings into focus the Government's priorities for Palmerston.

“Labor’s happy to pay failed former MLA James Burke \$200,000 a year to laze around the Chief Minister’s Palmerston office – but reckons full-time GP services in the Super Clinic are a lower priority.

“The \$500,000 it costs to operate that office could go a long way towards recruiting two GPs to the Super Clinic.”

**Further comment: Matt Conlan 0408 805 338**