



Matt Conlan MLA | Member for Grotorex

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MEDIA RELEASE

OVER-BAKING PALMERSTON HOSPITAL

Tuesday June 19th, 2012

One in five patient admissions to the proposed Palmerston Hospital will have to be transferred onto Royal Darwin Hospital, it was revealed in Estimates Committee hearings today.

Under questioning from Shadow Health Minister, Matt Conlan, Minister Kon Vatskalis revealed significant deficiencies in the treatment capacity of Palmerston Hospital.

“The Country Liberals have already raised concerns about the hospital’s capacity to operate full maternity services,” Mr Conlan said.

“Now we learn that other aspects of the new hospital’s operation have also been oversold.

“The Minister admitted as much during Estimates today when he said the Government had botched the public relations campaign surrounding the proposed hospital.

“The Minister has let hubris overtake sober assessment and, in the process, is damaging the community’s perception of the new facility.

“Residents in Palmerston and the rural area need to know whether they are better served presenting to Royal Darwin or Palmerston hospital for treatment.

“The Government needs to explain how it proposes that one in five patients will be transferred to Royal Darwin Hospital.

“Former Australian Medical Association president, Paul Bauert, had to slap Minister Vatskalis down following his over-blown claims about maternity services.

“Instead of over-baking the hospital’s capacity, the Minister would be better



MATT CONLAN MLA

GROTOREX

served working at obtaining additional funding from the Commonwealth to raise its service capacity.”< /p>

Further comment: Matt Conlan 0408 805 338



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