

Still no health policy but Liberals announce more bureaucrats for hospitals

With a week to go until Canberrans vote, the Liberals continue to refuse to release their health policy other than to confirm they will add a new layer of red tape and bureaucracy to the system by re-introducing hospital boards to run the two public hospitals.

In the AMA's journal Canberra Doctor released this week, Shadow Minister for Health Jacqui Burke MLA says "...the Canberra Liberals are committed to hospital boards."

"The only clear policy we have from the Canberra Liberals on hospitals is that they want to add more bureaucrats and administrators to our health system. This shows that they have no idea about how to run a health system or manage a budget of almost \$1 billion," Ms Gallagher said.

"We have been working hard to reduce our administration costs and over the past few years we have seen a significant reduction in this area. Because of these savings we have been able to reinvest that money into direct health service delivery.

"Independent figures show that over the past four years we have increased the money spent on doctors, nurses and allied health staff by 20% while at the same time we have reduced the amount spent on administration by 3%.

"The Liberal policy for the re-establishment of a hospital board to run The Canberra Hospital and Calvary Public Hospital will require the appointment of paid board members along with extra administration staff to manage the workings of the board."

"Where is the money going to come from to pay for these boards? What services will they cut to fund them?"

"The Liberals are clearly trying to outsource all responsibility for the hospital system by putting the major teaching hospital for the region, into the hands of a few individuals.

"We are a small community with two public hospitals, we need more doctors, nurses and other health professionals – not more public servants.

"ACT Labor has a comprehensive \$1 billion plan for the complete overhaul of our public health system which includes new facilities, new services and more health professionals. The contrast with the Liberal's lack of policy couldn't be more stark. With seven days to go, the Liberals have no ideas and no commitment to the health system" Ms Gallagher concluded

Statement Ends

Media Contact:

Angie Drake 6205 0139 0408 092 016 angie.drake@act.gov.au
(Deputy Chief Minister's Office)

Campaign Media Release 080/08