

MEDIA RELEASE

12 AUGUST 2020

For immediate circulation

Protecting the Territory from COVID-19 to be forefront of a Country Liberal Government's health strategy

A Country Liberal Government will ensure strong and effective measures continue to keep the Northern Territory safe from COVID-19. This strategy is part of our broader health plan for the whole of the Northern Territory, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said today.

"If elected, as Chief Minister I would actively participate in National Cabinet, act in the best interests of Territorians and always take the best health advice to keep Territorians safe," Mrs Finocchiaro said.

"A Country Liberal Government will continue to have Police on our borders, statutory declarations for those entering the Territory, hot spot management, expanded testing and mandatory quarantine for anyone deemed a risk. We will also work closely with land councils and communities."

A Country Liberal Government will ensure we have a world class health system in the Territory, from treatment to prevention. We will:

- **Establish a cardiothoracic surgery program at Royal Darwin Hospital** – We will progress this program that Labor scrapped. It will allow for life saving procedures in the Territory, but also in time to help make Darwin a medical destination for our Asian neighbours.
- **Expand Telehealth** – This program has been vital during COVID-19 and we will expand this service to increase access to specialist care across our small and widespread population.
- **Boost primary and preventative care** – We will reinvest in preventive programs including Strong Women, Strong Babies and Strong Culture and lobby for the addition of Meningococcal B immunisation on the national program.
- **Renew a focus on disability services, mental health and aged-care** – We will increase employment opportunities for people with a disability in the NT Public Sector and work with the Commonwealth to both support Territorians with NDIS packages and to build a new mental health inpatient facility in Darwin. We will actively facilitate private investment in aged-care and focus on access to aged-care in remote communities.
- **Ensure quality community controlled health clinics** – We will expand community controlled health clinics and support Aboriginal health workers.

Leader of the Opposition
LIA FINOCCHIARO MLA

MEDIA RELEASE

- **Targeted treatment and care from alcohol and other drugs** – We will accelerate implementation of the FASD recommendations in the Riley Review and increase services to remote communities.

“From prevention to treatment, we will find innovative ways to improve health outcomes for Territorians as well as adequately resource the programs and services working well. We will work to maximise the best mix of public and private health services so that Territorians can choose the type of service they wish to use,” Mrs Finocchiaro said.

“We are serious about tackling areas of alcohol harm, mental health services, aged-care, disability services and sexual health. We will continue to support our hardworking medical and health support staff and focus on what works for Territorians, from cradle to rocking chair.

“A Country Liberal Government will ensure Territorians receive the very best of health programs and services, no matter where they live in the Northern Territory. We will work hard to deliver those programs and services,” Mrs Finocchiaro concluded.

ENDS