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GOVERNMENT'S DUD DEAL WILL FORCE TERRITORY'S DOCTORS INTERSTATE

More than 75 per cent of the Territory's Health Department doctors have indicated they are prepared to pack up and head interstate after the NT Government's abysmal pay and conditions offer to its overworked medical workforce today.

A survey of around a third of all NT doctors shows that our GPs and specialists have had enough and it may be time to accept some of the lucrative offers coming from other States.

Queensland, which is desperate to recover from the 'Dr Death' scandal, is offering specialists about twice as much as the NT Government has put forward in its latest offer.

The other States are offering, on average, around 30 per cent more for highly trained medical practitioners.

AMA NT President, Dr Paul Bauert, said today that the NT Government's Christmas present to Territorians is the promise of a second rate health system.

"Dr Bauert said the Territory Government wants a health system with no doctors and nurses – even Scrooge would do better than that.

"We have some of the best and most dedicated doctors in Australia and the world up here and this miserly Government wants to force us all to work elsewhere.

"They seem to forget the work we've done after the Bali bombings and the tsunami.

"They seem to forget that Indigenous Australians have some of the worst health outcomes anywhere in the world and that 30 per cent of our population is Indigenous.

"Our doctors are specially trained in treating the special health needs of Indigenous Australians and they are committed to doing all they can to help these needy people.

"You simply cannot grow a highly skilled medical workforce overnight.

"The Territory is short of doctors as it is, but now the Government is doing all it can to manufacture an all-out medical workforce crisis.

"It is time that the NT Government did the right thing by the patients of the Northern Territory and make an offer that the doctors deserve to keep them working in the place they love.

"The health of the Territory depends on a bit of Christmas goodwill and fairness from this Government," Dr Bauert said.

Contact: Dr Paul Bauert 0422 457 565 or (08) 8928 0085 or Fiona Stacey 0419 827 350

Ph: (08) 8928 0085

Fax: (08) 8927 7475

Email: asmofnt@amant.com.au

PO Box 41046, Casuarina NT 0811

Unit 1/9 Symes Street, Nakara NT 0810

www.amant.com.au