



Gillard fears dialysis patients being turned away in NT

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Federal Labor health spokeswoman Julia Gillard says she is concerned by reports some renal dialysis patients are being turned away in Central Australia.

A spokesperson for the Western Desert dialysis project says the number of renal patients in Alice Springs is continuing to rise.

They say there now are not enough staff or dialysis machines at the Flynn Drive renal clinic in Alice Springs to treat all the patients who go there.

"I'm concerned about where that ends up, obviously with people in the emergency department at the Alice Springs Hospital, when they haven't been dialysed," she said.

"We know that there's a huge burden here already and we know it's going to increase.

"The Territory Government's well aware of this and the pressure's on them to keep expanding the dialysis system."

Ms Gillard says kidney disease is a growing burden for the health system in the region.

She says a long-term strategy to improve children's health is needed to reduce the level of chronic disease in the region.

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