

Labor throws cash south...

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... While Liberals master a Calwell plan



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The Canberra Liberals have promised to develop a master plan for the south east Tuggeranong region after conducting an audit of community facilities in the area. Calwell KUMON Education Centre's Jane Hiatt, Liberals candidate Nicole Lawder, Tuggeranong Community Council president Nick Tsoullias, Opposition Leader Zed Seselja, Frank Vrhns and Liberals deputy leader Brendan Smyth at the party's announcement. Picture: Elesa Lee

By Meredith Clisby

HEALTH minister Katy Gallagher has pledged further funding for community health services in Tuggeranong if Labor is re-elected this month.

ACT Labor has committed an extra \$2.5 million to the Tuggeranong Health Centre to employ more health professionals after it is redeveloped.

Ms Gallagher also confirmed the new nurse-led walk-in centre would be built in the town centre. Possible locations include a refurbished Tuggeranong Health Centre or in Greenway waters, where health services will be relocated for the duration of construction work.

Work on the health centre is expected to begin next month and be completed by mid-2014.

Ms Gallagher said the funding was in addition to the \$15 million already promised to establish walk-in clinics in Tuggeranong and Belconnen.

She said Labor favoured the nurse led walk-in model because it provided strong links to local GPs in the community, who would continue to provide care after treatment.

"Walk-in centres are for people with minor illness and injury, who if they do have an ... ongoing health matter, then they should be linked into general practice," Ms Gallagher said.

The Canberra Liberals have committed to provide an urgent care clinic in Tuggeranong staffed by GPs as well as nurses.

Health spokesman Jeremy Hanson said the party was still reviewing the exact location for the clinic.

Labor candidate for Brindabella Mick Gentleman said during consultation with the community people had made it clear they wanted the walk-in clinic in the town centre.