



Fear mounts for big Joe Kilimanjaro

HE may be climbing Africa's highest mountain, but needles were the big challenge for Joe Hockey on Wednesday.

"I loathe needles," he said as he broke into a sweat in the Chatswood doctor's surgery. "The things I do for Australia."

The Federal Liberal MP for North Sydney and

shadow treasurer got his final health check for his trek up Mt Kilimanjaro.

He received his final immunisations for yellow fever and flu and also had a blood test.

Mr Hockey is climbing Kilimanjaro to raise money for the Humpty Dumpty Foundation, which provides funds for

children's hospitals in NSW and East Timor.

More than \$900,000 has been collected for the climb, which will involve about 20 trekkers, including TV personality David Koch.

Mr Hockey said he expected the climb to be hard but compared the six-day trek favourably to the needling he gets in

Canberra.

"It's good to be out of parliament," he said.

The adventure begins on July 29 and climbers are expected to reach the summit on August 5.

To make a donation see humptysmountain.com.au.

ANDREW PRIESTLEY



OUCH: Point of order for Joe Hockey.