

Record Health and Community Services Budget

Budget 2004 delivers a record health budget, building on the extra \$100 million spent on health in the first two years of the Martin Government.

The total Health and Community Services Budget for 2004-05 is up from last year by \$23.7 million to \$635.4 million. This includes an \$18.6 million boost for hospitals.

More money for hospitals

The Government is committed to providing the resources and infrastructure to ensure Territorians have the best possible health care.

- \$11 million for Alice Springs Hospital over the next four years to expand the Intensive Care / High Dependency Unit.
- \$900 000 for Alice Springs Hospital fire safety upgrade.
- \$3.6 million for a new hospice at Royal Darwin Hospital.
- \$2.5 million for a new Birth Centre at Royal Darwin Hospital.
- \$2.5 million expansion of Royal Darwin Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department.
- \$750 000 for Tennant Creek Hospital to meet fire safety standards.
- \$39.7 million, up by \$1 million, for Katherine, Gove and Tennant Creek Hospitals.

More quality health staff

In line with improvement and additions to hospitals the Government is also funding additional staff to meet the health needs of Territorians.

Budget 2004 includes the following:

- Funds to increase Alice Springs Intensive Care Unit / High Dependency Unit staff levels by 37, including 25 more nurses over the next two years and three more diagnostic and radiology staff.
- \$900 000 to train staff in preparation for the opening of the hospice which will have 13 new staff over the next two years.
- \$326 000 in 2005-06 for an extra four midwives for the Birthing Centre.



Meeting the health needs of our communities

Budget 2004 also includes \$109 million to meet community health needs throughout the Territory, including remote primary health care and child health services.

- \$900 000 for stage two of the remote renal services initiatives.
- \$320 000 for the pilot school breakfast program.
- \$1.5 million to construct a new health centre at Kalkaringi.
- \$1.4 million is being provided in 2004-05 to commence a four year program to upgrade single nurse posts. Four clinics will gain additional staff this year – Kings Canyon, Titjikala and Yuelamu in Central Australia, and Minjilang in the Top End.

Family and community services

Our most valuable resource is our children, and the Martin Government is committed to ensuring they have the best start in life with good support for families.

Last October the Government announced a record injection of \$53 million into child protection initiatives over the next five years to protect and nurture our children.

Budget 2004 follows on from this significant funding boost with \$44 million for Family and Children's Services, an increase of \$3.6 million on last year's Budget.

- \$20 million for child protection services.
- \$10.8 million for childcare, early childhood development and parent support services.
- \$13.9 million for families in crisis, including:
 - \$600 000 towards new family support programs.
 - \$595 000 in extra payments to foster carers to assist those who take into their own homes, children who can no longer stay with their own families.

A record \$25.8 million for mental health services

- \$25.8 million to increase the services for those suffering from mental health problems, including increased access to treatment and services.

\$55 million for aged care and disability services

In 2004-05, \$55 million will be spent on Aged and Disability Services.

- \$8.2 million will be provided for supporting Senior Territorians and pensioner concessions.
- \$46.9 million to support the frail, aged and those living with a disability, including \$200 000 in Darwin and \$50 000 in Alice Springs, for services to young people with disabilities with high support needs, post-secondary school.