



Northern Territory

BUDGET 2004

Moving the Territory ahead... **less tax, more jobs, great lifestyle**

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Peter Toyne
Minister for Health

18 May 2004

RECORD HEALTH BUDGET ... HOSPITALS BOOSTED \$18.6 million

Spending on Territory hospitals has been increased by \$18.6 million in this year's record Health budget of \$635.4 million.

Overall, Budget 2004 provides the Department of Health and Community Services with a funding boost of \$23.7 million, an increase of 3.2 per cent.

Minister for Health Dr Peter Toyne said the additional funding will provide Territorians access to improved health facilities and specialist staff.

"The *Building Healthier Communities – A Five Year Framework* provided the long-term plan – the budget provides the momentum for us to continue moving our health system ahead," Dr Toyne said.

"Over the past two years, Government has spent an extra \$100 million on health and that is being boosted even further in Budget 2004.

"Hospitals have been given a significant boost to provide the best possible service to all Territorians."

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. The money will also help attract and retain specialists to the Centre
- \$900,000 to ensure Alice Springs Hospital is compliant with fire safety standards
- \$3.6 million for a new hospice unit at Royal Darwin Hospital
- \$900,000 to train staff in preparation for the opening of the hospice, which will have 13 new staff over the next two years
- \$2.5 million for a new Birth Centre at Royal Darwin Hospital
- \$2.5 million expansion of the Royal Darwin Hospital Accident and Emergency Department
- \$750,000 for Tennant Creek Hospital to meet fire safety standards
- \$39.7 million, a \$1 million increase, for Katherine, Gove and Tennant Creek Hospitals
- \$1.78 million for minor capital works



MEETING THE HEALTH NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES

In addition to upgrading hospitals and providing more nurses, the Government will also spend \$109 million to meet community health needs across the Territory.

Highlights include:

- \$900,000 for Stage 2 of the Remote Renal Services initiative
- \$1.5 million for a new health centre at Kalkaringi
- \$1.4 million to commence a four-year program to upgrade single nurse posts
- \$320,000 for pilot breakfast school program

“The Government is committed to quality health care for Territorians and this year’s record health Budget is proof of that commitment,” Dr Toyne said.

