

Building Healthier



The 2005-06 Budget includes:

- total expenditure on health and community services of \$687 million, an increase of \$25.8 million over 2004-05;
- \$392 million for hospitals and acute services;
- \$157 million for community health, family and children's services;
- \$87 million for aged, disability and mental health care services;
- \$50 million for public health services and research; and
- \$33.2 million for 2005-06 health capital infrastructure and \$8.3 million for repairs and maintenance.

Health Services

There are many improvements to the quality and range of health services in 2005-06 across the Territory, including:

- additional ongoing \$1.94 million for Alice Springs Hospital intensive care unit staffing and support;
- \$1.87 million to operate the Royal Darwin Hospital 12 bed hospice;
- \$0.5 million per year to improve care and support services for Territorians requiring interstate radiotherapy treatment;
- \$2.5 million for the Birthing Centre at Royal Darwin Hospital and \$0.3 million for staff training;
- \$2 million additional recurrent funding for renal services closer to patients' homes in regional and remote areas across the Territory;
- extra ongoing \$1.5 million per year for essential mental health services including \$0.2 million to strengthen 24-hour emergency response and \$0.35 million to establish four additional child and adolescent psychiatrist positions in rural centres;
- a further \$0.6 million a year for community-based residential mental health care services in Darwin and Alice Springs;
- Life Promotion Program expanded, with \$0.25 million a year for suicide prevention work in regional and remote communities;
- \$0.3 million to support new youth services in Alice Springs, Gove, Gunbalanya, Willowra, Belyuen, Timber Creek and Groote Eylandt;
- additional \$0.5 million to enhance the HIV/STI treatment and prevention program;
- \$2.0 million to implement network, rehabilitation and treatment services for people with volatile substance misuse problems; and
- \$0.9 million for computing equipment at all remote clinics.



Communities

Community Services

Community services will be improved in 2005-06, through:

- additional \$1.13 million in 2005-06 for indexation of payments to non-government organisations;
- \$0.2 million per year for nurses to study locally as midwives and \$0.5 million to improve maternal and child health services;
- \$0.34 million to enhance services for people with chronic pain;
- \$0.4 million per year for home birth care services and outreach ante-natal services to remote communities;
- additional \$0.6 million for oral health equipment and services;
- extra \$1 million for tailored services for high need children in care;
- \$0.5 million for the new NT Health Direct, a telephone-based health service for fast access to health advice;
- \$0.5 million to employ Indigenous cadets, foster care support workers and new community resource staff to work exclusively with Indigenous communities;
- \$0.5 million to develop an intensive family support service providing specialised, short term, intensive therapeutic and practical support for families the subject of repeat child protection notifications or investigations or both; and
- additional \$0.43 million for the Nhulunbuy Special Care Centre, \$0.15 million for a community patrol. A \$0.39 million contribution has been made to a 12 bed sobering-up facility in Nhulunbuy.



Health Infrastructure

- Total of \$33.2 million for capital works in 2005-06 and \$8.3 million for repairs and maintenance.
- \$9.27 million for Alice Springs Hospital fire safety upgrade works.
- \$0.65 million to upgrade health staff accommodation in Alice Springs.
- \$1.8 million to complete the Yuendumu Health Centre and \$0.38 million to complete other Central Australian health centres.
- Refurbish offices in Casuarina Plaza in Darwin and Centrepoint building in Alice Springs to improve occupational health and safety for Health and Community Services staff.
- \$1.0 million each for upgrades to Flynn Drive and Alice Springs Hospital renal facilities, providing additional renal stations and services for acute patients.
- \$1.2 million for community-based residential facilities in Darwin and Alice Springs for 24 hour support for people with mental illness.

