

Northern Territory

Budget 2007 *jobs, growth, lifestyle*

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Improving the health of Territorians is a key priority of the Territory Government. A healthier Territory means a more successful and productive Territory. A healthy Territory also improves everyone's lifestyle. In Budget 2007, the Territory Government makes a significant investment in Health and Community Services.

**\$838 million is provided for health and community services
– an increase in funding of 73% since 2001.**

FUNDING TERRITORY HOSPITALS

Budget 2007 provides strong support for Territory hospitals.

- \$207.3 million for the Royal Darwin Hospital – an increase of 85% since 2001
- \$104.7 million for Alice Springs Hospital – up 94% since 2001
- \$24.4 million for Katherine Hospital – up 72% since 2001
- \$17.8 million for Gove District Hospital – up 60% since 2001
- \$10.6 million for Tennant Creek Hospital – up 74% since 2001

SUPPORTING NURSES AND DOCTORS

Budget 2007 backs the work of nurses and doctors. 308 additional nurses and 110 additional doctors have been employed since 2001.

IMPROVING HOSPITALS

Significant work will continue building and improving hospital facilities. In Alice Springs there will be:

- \$6 million for a new Emergency Department
- \$3 million in further upgrades
- \$5.4 million in ongoing funds for infrastructure work

At Tennant Creek Hospital, \$1 million will be provided for stage 2 of fire upgrades.

At Royal Darwin Hospital, \$1.5 million will be spent to upgrade the autoclave.

Ongoing work at RDH includes:

- \$1.98 million for the Rapid Admission and Planning Unit
- \$950 000 to upgrade the lifts
- \$2.21 million for National Trauma Centre facilities

A new health clinic will be built at Wadeye costing \$3.1 million.



Health and Community Services

A FOCUS ON DISABILITY

Budget 2007 focuses on support for people with a disability. Over the next four years an additional \$17.8 million will be provided to increase services for disabled Territorians.

An Office of Disability will be created within Health and Community Services.

Development of non-government organisations will be supported with assistance both in training staff and adopting alternative models of care, including:

- \$300 000 for an additional four allied health positions to provide therapy and allied services
- \$300 000 this year for additional respite places
- \$300 000 to support additional post-school options
- \$500 000 for accommodation and community care support packages
- \$500 000 for the continued growth of the Home and Community Care Program
- \$180 000 for Transition Care with 16 further positions funded
- \$200 000 to expand the TIMES
- An additional \$25 000 for the Taxi Subsidy Scheme this year

MENTAL HEALTH

Budget 2007 will fund Mental Health Services with \$33.9 million.

TACKLING RENAL HEALTH

Poor renal health destroys the lifestyle of far too many Territorians. To tackle this problem, in Budget 2007, the Government announces \$24.4 million over the next four years to provide improved services.

This includes:

- \$13.9 million in operational funding, including 54 additional staff
- \$10.5 million for capital infrastructure to improve the number of dialysis stations available

These funds will be used right across the Territory.

SUPPORTING TERRITORY FAMILIES

Budget 2007 backs Territory families, through:

- \$10.8 million for Pensioner Concessions
- \$3.7 million to subsidise the cost of child care
- \$35.8 million for Child Protection Services
- \$18.7 million for supporting individuals and families in crisis

SUPPORTING ST JOHN AMBULANCE

Budget 2007 will support the Territory Ambulance Service.

This year, St John Ambulance will get an additional \$1.15 million, rising to \$1.37 million ongoing from next year.

This brings the total amount for St John Ambulance in 2007 to \$12.7 million.