

A Healthier Territory

Budget 2016 provides \$1.52 billion in health-related expenditure to support innovative health care through an overhaul of the Territory's major health ICT systems and expand the scope of health services provided in the Territory.

Cardiothoracic and Neurosurgical Services

The 2016 budget provides \$8.3 million for the establishment of cardiothoracic and neurosurgical services in Darwin. The services will provide post-surgical rehabilitation as well as the initial surgical intervention, meaning nearly 600 patients a year will be able to receive treatment close to home and avoid having to travel interstate.

Palmerston Regional Hospital

Construction of the Palmerston Regional Hospital is on time and on track to deliver hospital care closer to home for the Palmerston community from mid-2018.

Budget 2016 increases the Government's support for the Palmerston Regional Hospital with an additional \$20 million allocated towards the build cost, to a total of \$170 million. The additional investment recognises the increased scope of the hospital to better meet the services of the local community, supports the Government's objective to future proof the hospital and enhances both the operational efficiency and safe clinical practice.

Additional features include:

- increased bed capacity to a 116-bed facility;
- increased floor area to 22 400m² from the previous 18 000m²;
- under-cover car parking for 75% of the car parks, including all staff parking;
- on-site sterilising services;
- a full kitchen fit-out for on-site meal preparation; and

- construction to Building Importance Level 4 standards, to provide capacity to operate for five consecutive days following a Category 5 cyclone.

In addition, \$36 million will be invested over two years for furniture, fittings, equipment, information and communications technology (ICT) hardware and hospital-specific systems, and personnel to support the commissioning of the Palmerston Regional Hospital. This ensures the very best of care will be delivered at Palmerston Regional Hospital and the efficient coordination of services with those delivered at Royal Darwin Hospital.

Smarter Health Care

The 2016 Budget provides \$185.9 million over five years to revolutionise health care delivery in the Territory through ICT modernisation including the introduction of real-time individual electronic health records.

The Core Clinical Systems Renewal Program (CCSRP) will be the largest ICT reform in the Territory's history and will result in the Territory being the first jurisdiction to provide end-to-end clinical information to all healthcare providers at the point of care.

The CCSRP will replace four core clinical information systems currently supporting health services in the Territory and implement an integrated, client-centric electronic health record. This will transform the way public health services operate in the Territory by allowing clinicians to access a single patient record from any hospital, clinic or primary care centre in real-time.

As a consequence, clinicians will no longer need to reassess a patient's history at every visit resulting in improved health outcomes, reduced re-admissions, shorter emergency department waiting times and improved patient safety.

To provide improved access to diagnostic services and wait times, Royal Darwin Hospital will receive \$3 million to construct an area for an additional CT Scanner.

Strengthening Health Infrastructure

Budget 2016 invests in hospital and health services facilities to improve patient outcomes through:

- \$14 million to continue the refurbishment of outpatient and public areas at Royal Darwin Hospital;
- \$4.9 million for remediation and upgrades to fire safety systems at Gove District Hospital;
- \$3.7 million to continue upgrades to the paediatrics ward at Royal Darwin Hospital;
- \$5.1 million to continue the construction of a multipurpose facility at Alice Springs Hospital;
- \$16.2 million to continue remediation and upgrades at Alice Springs Hospital;
- \$2 million to construct and upgrade renal clinics around Alice Springs; and
- \$9.6 million to continue upgrades to the Gove District Hospital emergency department.

Enhancing Mental Health Services

Budget 2016 supports mental health services across the Territory through:

- \$325 000 for two Top End remote-based clinician positions and Aboriginal mental health workers in Maningrida and on the Tiwi Islands;
- \$900 000 to maintain additional capacity in crisis assessment teams for short-term case management and mobile assessments;
- \$500 000 to continue the Mental Health Court Liaison Service, employing mental health clinicians based at the Darwin and Alice Springs Local Courts; and

- \$900 000 for continuing operation of the five-bed Youth Inpatient Program, offering specialist youth mental health assessment and treatment.

Supporting Our Ambulance Services

Budget 2016 supports the delivery of improved ambulance services in the Territory through a \$149 million, five-year agreement between the Territory Government and St John Ambulance.

Improving Suicide Prevention

Budget 2016 provides \$1.44 million for suicide prevention to support activities aligned with the Suicide Prevention Strategic Action Plan 2015-18. The Action Plan is a whole of government approach to increase awareness and promote early intervention strategies to increase resilience across the Territory.

Strengthening Disability Services

The transition to the full rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is progressing through a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth Government for transitional arrangements.

Budget 2016 ensures the provision of quality care to Territorians living with disabilities through:

- \$920 000 over four years to support the transition to full scheme implementation of the NDIS across the Territory;
- \$10 million to support the construction of the Carpentaria Disability Services community hub development; and
- \$470 000 to assist with the completion of the third and final stage of the Somerville Centre Palmerston.

Supporting Health Research

Budget 2016 provides \$5 million to increase support for the Menzies School of Health Research to fund research into delivering strong economic and health returns for the Territory.