Disaster Response Does the Territory Proud

The Northern Territory Chief Minister has praised the efforts of Territorians called on to help rescue and treat asylum seekers after an explosion on their boat.

Mr Henderson said Darwin-based navy personnel, police, emergency services and medical staff have been working around the clock to respond to the disaster.

“It is a testament to all Territorians that we can mount a professional and efficient emergency response to such a disaster,” he said.

“The Northern Territory has a national and international reputation for our capacity to help in disaster situations. We were at the forefront during both Bali bombings and the troubles in East Timor, and we often lend our expertise in the wake of disasters interstate and overseas.

“Royal Darwin Hospital is home to the National Critical Care and Trauma Centre which swung into operation immediately on receiving requests for help.

“I know medical staff were called in to help with the victims and willingly gave up their time to do so. Medical teams from RDH also flew to Truscott Airbase in WA to assist.

“Ambulance personnel were on standby most of the night to meet aircraft bringing in the injured, while NT Police have been tasked with investigating the incident.

“The Darwin-based HMAS Albany performs border protection duties and is assisting with the evacuation of the injured. The crew have done a great job in tough conditions and I’m sure they are looking forward to coming home.

“I thank all Territorians who have assisted at this tragic time. The Territory stands by to help further.”

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