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RDH receives Baby Friendly Accreditation

Royal Darwin Hospital has been awarded Baby Friendly accreditation by the Australian College of Midwives, Health Minister Kon Vatskalis announced today.

It is one of 74 hospitals and health centres across Australia to receive the accreditation, which ensures every baby has the best start in life by creating a health care environment where breastfeeding is the norm.

Mr Vatskalis joined the hospital’s midwives and maternity staff at a celebratory morning tea today.

“This is a fantastic achievement for our dedicated team of midwives and nurses at Royal Darwin Hospital,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“This accreditation shows that Territorians who choose to have their babies at RDH are receiving high-quality care and support as they bond with the newest additions to their families.

“Baby Friendly accreditation also supports, respects and encourages the mother’s choice of infant feeding, with staff providing practical education and assistance to breastfeeding mothers, as well as advice about support resources.

“To receive this accreditation, midwives and carers had to obtain an increased knowledge of infant feeding, and demonstrate skills and commitment to facilitate breast feeding, and I commend all the staff for their hard work.”

The Baby Friendly Health Initiative was launched in 1991 by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation, with the aim to create health care environments that promote breastfeeding.

Royal Darwin Hospital is the fourth Territory hospital to receive the accreditation, following Alice Springs Hospital, Gove District Hospital and Katherine District Hospital.

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