Territory Invests More in Health and Hospitals

The Northern Territory Government is leading the nation when it comes to health spending and the employment of more hospital doctors and nurses as reported in the Australian Government’s Report on Government Services 2012, Health Minister Kon Vatskalis said today.

The report shows the NT Government spends $6548 per person compared to $5250 nationally.

The report shows that during 2009/10, the Territory employed 1.7 hospital doctors per 1000 people, one of the highest in the country. The national figure was 1.4.

The number of hospital nurses employed in the Territory during that period outstripped other jurisdictions with 6.7 per 1000 people. Nationally, the figure was 5.1 nurses.

“The Northern Territory Government is continuing to improve our health system by providing affordable, quality and accessible health care, and this report shows that the Territory is leading the way across the nation,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The NT Labor Government is committed to improving the health status of all Territorians, increasing health funding by 149% since coming into Government in 2001.

“The NT employs the most hospital staff in Australia, around 14.9 per 1000 compared to Australian average 11.3 per 1000.

“Additionally, the report again confirms the Territory Government spends more than any other Australian jurisdiction on its public hospitals.”

The report also found the NT to have the most public hospital beds per weighted population in Australia. In 2009-10, NT had 3.1 public hospital beds per 1000 population, above the national average of 2.6 beds.

Mr Vatskalis said the NT Government had made huge inroads in Indigenous health outcomes, particularly with Indigenous infant mortality rates having halved since 2000.

“We are making real progress on Indigenous health outcomes in the Territory, and while we know there is more to do, we have certainly made positive strides with the report showing a decrease from 22.9 infant deaths to 11.4 deaths per 1000.”

The Northern Territory also has the best access to dental services in Australia with 12 dentists per 100 000 population compared to national average of 7.7. We have more than double the number of dentist per 100 000 population than Tasmania (5.5 per 100 000) & more people access public dental than nationally.

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