Health Minister, Robyn Lambley, has congratulated the YWCA of Darwin for the successful implementation of its training and catering ‘Food For Futures’ project.

Speaking at today’s official launch of the initiative, Mrs Lambley said the Government welcomed the foresight and enterprise that drove the YWCA of Darwin to move from simple food preparation to training and skilling catering staff.

Work to establish the Food For Futures scheme at Barbara James House – the Department of Health’s cancer accommodation centre – and the YWCA of Darwin’s Banyan View Lodge, has been underway since March.

“With support from the Territory Department of Health, a commercial kitchen was installed at Barbara James House.

“In addition, a cafe, kiosk and dining services were installed independently at Banyan View Lodge by the YWCA of Darwin.

“These facilities will not only allow the YWCA of Darwin to better fulfil its catering and food preparation obligations, but also to provide training opportunities as well.

“The YWCA of Darwin came to the Department with a proposal to expand and re-fit the commercial kitchen at Barbara James House to enable the delivery of the Food for Futures program.

“This will enable the YWCA of Darwin to deliver a range of training opportunities including employing apprentice kitchen hands and delivering food preparation and nutrition programs.

“Trainees based at Barbara James House will work with an executive chef towards the Certificate III in commercial cooking.

“The International College of Advanced Education has agreed to support on-site training and assessment at Banyan View Lodge in Certificate III Hospitality.

“It is estimated up to six trainees will participate in the 12 month certificate courses with some trainees being sourced from the Department of Corrections ‘Sentenced to a Job’ program.

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