Minister for Health, Dr Peter Toyne, today announced that three doctors specialising in nephrology (kidney disease) have been recruited to work in Central Australia.

Dr Toyne said it was an indication of the reputation of the Alice Springs Hospital and local medical services that such high calibre practitioners have been attracted to the Centre.

"There is a world-wide shortage of nephrologists and I’m very pleased that we’ve been successful in signing up three specialists in this highly competitive field," Dr Toyne said.

"The three doctors will enhance the services to people with kidney disease in Central Australia through the Alice Springs Renal Service."

Dr Mohandas Vattekad, who has previously worked in Alice Springs, took up the position of consultant nephrologist this week and Dr Cherican Sajiv took up his position in September last year.

Dr James Swao arrived last week to fill the newly-created nephrology position.

"Previously, there was funding for two nephrologists in Alice Springs but an extra $2.5 million was announced last year to expand renal services after years of neglect," Dr Toyne said.

"The extra position that is now on-board has been funded from this commitment of extra money."

The doctors will be working at the Flynn Drive Renal Dialysis Unit and in the hospital’s medical ward, seeing patients with early and late stage renal disease.

"The NT has Australia’s highest rates of renal disease and it’s a priority for this Government to address this issue after too many years of neglect," Dr Toyne said.

"The department has worked very hard in actively recruiting these doctors and we are continuing to pull out all stops in attracting medical specialists in other fields to work in Alice Springs."

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