Moves to Fix Patient Transfer Problems

The Health Minister Chris Burns is concerned about recent reports of problems relating to patients being transferred to communities. He has been given assurances that procedures for patient transfers will be reviewed and tightened.

“I have spoken to the Health Department CEO Robert Griew who has assured me procedures will be tightened. That includes a process whereby clinics and communities are advised by fax and phone call of a patient’s arrival.”

There are about 8,000 patient transfers conducted within the Territory every year.

“Unfortunately, in a couple of incidents the process has failed patients and their families,” he said.

“There are unique challenges to the delivery of health services in the NT, so it is critical we have the proper processes in place and guidelines are strictly adhered to.

"We need to ensure there is not a repeat of these incidents."

Dr Burns said the Department had also undertaken to review past travel arrangements.

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