Push for Progress on NT Health

The Territory Health Minister Chris Burns will use tomorrow’s Health Minister’s conference to ensure the Federal Government's health commitments in the NT remain a top priority.

Dr Burns said he will hold further discussions with the Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon on the early transfer of funds to progress Darwin’s Radiation Oncology Unit and a Super Clinic in Palmerston.

“Both projects are of immense importance to Territorians and I want to ensure there are no unnecessary delays,” he said.

Dr Burns said he will also discuss the progress of the Federal Government's intervention plans in the Northern Territory.

“The child health checks have resulted in a number of children receiving surgery for ear, nose and throat conditions. I want to see that level of commitment continue,” he said.

“The Northern Territory Government is keen to work with the Federal Government and the Aboriginal medical services sector to expand primary health care to remote areas of the Territory.”

Dr Burns said specific items on the agenda for general discussion include a national registration and accreditation scheme for health professionals.

“A national registration will be more efficient and help put quality and patient safety first,” Dr Burns said.

“We don't want someone who is de-registered in one state, able to sneak through the system in another state.”

Dr Burns said an update on the next Australian Health Care Agreement between the Commonwealth and the states and territories would also be discussed.

The Health Ministers will be meeting in Melbourne.

Media contact: Andrea Adlam 0401 119467