Health Minister launches one-stop shop for cancer services

A new website developed by the Cancer Services Networks National Demonstration Program (CanNET), and funded by Cancer Australia, will give cancer patients and loved ones a full range of information about cancer and cancer services.

The Minister for Health, Kon Vatskalis, said the NT Government’s website hosts the Cancer Services site, which aims to improve access to information about cancer services to residents of the Northern Territory.

“If you’re faced with a serious diagnosis such as cancer, easy access to information about health services can make a big difference to you and your family,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“This site will enable people to learn about the cancer journey from diagnosis through to treatment and discharge. There’s also information for health care professionals, and links to other cancer information sites.

“The new online resource - and the Radiation Oncology Unit under construction at Royal Darwin Hospital - are some of the measures the NT Government is taking to ensure Territorians have access to the cancer treatment they need.

“The bigger picture is the development and implementation of a 10-year Territory Cancer Plan, which includes an NT-wide service delivery model and referral pathways for the most common cancers.”

The new website presents information about various treatment options and questions to ask health care professionals, and has links to many support services within the NT.

For health professionals, the site provides links to cancer-related professional development opportunities and to evidence-based treatment protocols. There
is also a monthly community noticeboard for cancer-related events such as consumer groups and professional interest groups.

In the future, a Directory of Services will be added to the Cancer Services website. This will enable consumers and health care professionals to find appropriate services close to home.

The CanNET website address is: www.health.nt.gov.au/Cancer_Services