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A way forward for Royal Darwin Hospital

Health Minister, Kon Vatskalis, today publicly released 4 important independent reports relating to the security and management of Royal Darwin Hospital.

The Minister said the reports highlight the particular challenges that are faced by Royal Darwin Hospital including increased patient numbers.

“Royal Darwin Hospital is a good hospital. It has a dedicated and hard working workforce of over 1700 and a budget of around $225 million - nearly a quarter of the total $1 billion health budget,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Since coming to Government, annual funding for Royal Darwin Hospital has doubled from $112 million in 2001 to around $225 million today. There are now 108 more doctors and 163 more nurses.”

The reports released today are –

- Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) Governance Review;
- Nursing Hours Per Patient Day implementation (Professor Christine Duffield);
- Security Audit Stage 1 – RDH Security (Mr Jim O’Sullivan); and
- Complaints Management Review (Mr Ray Norman).

The independent reports detail concerns in several areas of operation at Royal Darwin Hospital and importantly outline a way forward.

“The Government will immediately start assessing how to best implement the recommendations to improve Royal Darwin Hospital and ultimately improve health outcomes for all Territorians,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“I look forward to discussing the issues with key stakeholders to determine the best way forward. Feedback from health professionals will be a very important part of the process.”

The Governance Review requested submissions from the public for consideration. The Minister thanked the key stakeholders who responded.

“It is extremely disappointing that the Opposition could not be bothered taking part in the process,” he said.

“The Country Liberals are happy to attack Royal Darwin Hospital at every opportunity but are simply too lazy to bother contributing to its future.”

Copies of the report can be found at www.health.nt.gov.au

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