Gerry McCarthy
MEMBER FOR BARKLY

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Pilot Program to Help Newborns Travel Safer

The NT Government has launched a pilot project that will see baby capsules installed on Greyhound Australia buses between Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

Member for Barkly Gerry McCarthy has welcomed the initiative saying not only will it make travelling home to Tennant Creek easier for new mothers but also safer.

Also in another step to improve patient travel Greyhound has agreed to pick up discharged patients from outside the Alice Springs hospital.

“The hospital has agreed to provide a waiting area at the Alice Springs Hospital for mums with babies who need to catch the night bus to Tennant Creek,” Mr McCarthy said.

“The overnight bus arrives in Tennant Creek around 2 am and will now stop directly at the hospital as well as at the BP service station.

“Mums are often accommodated at the hospital overnight before completing their journey home.

“I’m sure mums away from their communities will appreciate the use of a baby capsule and the increased safety of being picked up and dropped off at a hospital.”

Minister for Health Kon Vatskalis has welcomed the initiative to install Department of Health supplied capsules on Greyhound buses as it was one of the key recommendations from the Maternity Services Review.

“This is a great example of the NT Government working with the private sector, and I commend Greyhound Australia for taking such a proactive and considerate approach by offering to install the capsules,” Mr Vatskalis said.
About ten mothers are expected to use the service each month.

Greyhound Australia’s Chief Executive Officer Robert Thomas said this was another great example of Australia’s oldest coach operator working in regional areas to improve transport services.

“Coach services are vital in regional areas and we are always more than happy to work alongside the local community to implement flexible services where required,” Mr Thomas said.

The pilot program will be assessed by Greyhound and Department of Health over the coming months.

Contact: Natasha Fyles 04488 66312