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Territory Again Leads Nation In Health Spending

The Northern Territory’s recurrent expenditure per person on health is the highest in Australia, according to a new report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

*Health Expenditure Australia 2007-08,* said the NT Government spent an average of $5,981 per person on health, which is more than any other State or Territory in Australia.

The NT Government’s expenditure was 29.6 per cent above the national average expenditure of $4,163 per person.

Minister for Health, Kon Vatskalis, said this reflected the Government’s commitment to improving the delivery of health services in the Northern Territory.

“This year the NT Government is spending a record $1.05 billion for Health and Families – more than double the funding since 2001 with a 117% increase,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“This means an extra 127 hospital beds, 179 more doctors and 632 more nurses across the Territory since 2001.

“The Henderson Government is dedicated to providing the best possible health care to all Territorians, whether they live in cities, towns or remote communities.

“This also demonstrates our Government’s continuing commitment to work closely with the Commonwealth, and our partner organisations, to fund and deliver world-class health services across the Territory.”

The report also shows that the NT Government is delivering on its commitment to improve Aboriginal health, with the Territory again recording the highest Aboriginal health expenditure per person in the nation.

“The total recurrent funding for health in the Territory increased by $158 million between 2006/07 and 2007/08 – a further significant increase from previous years,” the Minister said.

The report also noted that the Northern Territory had the second highest average annual growth in recurrent health spending, at 6.5 per cent, between 2002-03 and 2007-08.

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