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Good progress on hospitals planning project

The development of a 20-year blueprint for planning and delivering hospital and related health care services across the Northern Territory is underway, Health Minister Kon Vatskalis said today.

Mr Vatskalis said stakeholder meetings are now being undertaken by the Ernst and Young consultancy, which began work on the project in October.

“This is the most extensive, long-term health planning exercise yet undertaken in the NT,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“It is vital for ensuring that the health and wellbeing of our fast-growing population will be well catered for into the future.”

The project aim is to produce a blueprint document that will –

- scope the medium and long term health needs of the broader NT community, as well as specific groups, in the light of such factors as population growth
- examine hospital infrastructure and analyse capital works enhancements, including the feasibility of a proposed Palmerston Hospital
- analyse the NT’s inter-state relationships and cross-border patient flows

“The consultants are advancing well with stakeholder consultation, statistical analysis and the viewing of hospitals and health related facilities across the NT,” Mr Vatskalis said.

He said Ernst and Young is working closely with senior DHF staff, including hospital clinicians, and has consulted with a number of peak health bodies, NGOs and key stakeholder groups, including local government.

“It is essential to get the NT’s long-term health planning right and this blueprint will lay the foundations for the development of acute care services for the next two decades and beyond.
“The planning blueprint will focus on all our hospitals and their clinical networking, with one key area being an analysis of the scope and range of services for a proposed Palmerston Hospital.”

Mr Vatskalis today also reminded Territorians that the NT Government’s new Healthy Territory website was now live, and accessible at www.healthynt.nt.gov.au

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