States and Territory Work Together on Renal Dialysis Treatment

The first steps towards an agreement about the treatment of renal dialysis patients in Central Australia have been taken at today’s Health Ministers’ Ministerial Conference.

Health Minister Kon Vatskalis today confirmed that the Territory will work with Western Australia for Alice Springs to become the hub of renal dialysis treatment for patients.

Mr Vatskalis added that the South Australia agreed that treating patients in Alice Springs was part of the solution, however the State Government is already expanding its renal facilities in Port Augusta to properly cater for remote renal dialysis patients in SA.

“We cannot have remote Indigenous patients living near the NT border and not being able to access treatment in Alice Springs,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“This is a good outcome for Central Australians on renal dialysis.

“I met with the SA and WA Health Ministers this morning and we have established a suitable resolution to deal with patients who need to travel for dialysis in the Central Australian region.

“WA Health Minister Dr Kim Hames has agreed that Alice Springs is the preferred option for patients from WA communities near the NT border.

“And South Australia Health Minister John Hill acknowledged that Alice Springs is part of the solution, however their expanded facilities will also assist in catering for remote South Australians on dialysis.”

Mr Vatskalis said departmental health authorities would meet again in Adelaide early next month to progress the terms of the Agreement.

“Commonwealth and State and Territory Health Department officials have met today, however will come together in December again to discuss the approach forward.”

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