23 April 2010

Minister Attends Australian Health Ministers’ Conference

Health Minister Kon Vatskalis has returned from the Australian Health Ministers’ Conference where the National Health Reforms negotiated at COAG this week led the agenda.

Mr Vatskalis said the Health Ministers noted the national health reform plan and the benefits to states and Territories.

As part of the historic reform package, action has been agreed to reduce the waiting times for patients in public hospital emergency departments.

“These are groundbreaking national health reforms which will lower the amount of time spent in emergency departments and provide Territorians with an additional 350 elective surgeries,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“I have also received further reinforcement from Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon to an unprecedented doubling of GP training places – 50% of which will be dedicated remote and rural.

“All up Chief Minister Paul Henderson was able to negotiate $208 million to go into the Territory’s health system over 10 years.”

Mr Vatskalis said all Health Ministers agreed to a significant expansion of clinical training capacity for health and medical professionals as part of the $1.6 billion health workforce National Partnership.

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