Kon Vatskalis
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

29 June 2010

International Forum – War and Disaster: Surviving the Frontline

Minister for Health Kon Vatskalis will today give the welcome address at the International Forum - War and Disaster: Surviving the Frontline.

The forum provides Territorians with the opportunity to hear from eminent speakers not usually available to a wider audience about disaster management.

“Royal Darwin Hospital is recognised nationally for its disaster response preparedness as well as having the capacity to treat victims with critical injuries and to rapidly deploy trained staff to disaster sites,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The decision by the Australian Government to fund the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre acknowledged RDH’s rapid response as the injured from Australia and other nations were evacuated to Darwin following the first Bali bombing in October 2002.

“The forum today is raising our awareness about disasters and our preparedness to respond to incidents.”

Speakers at today’s Forum include Territory Coroner Greg Cavanagh, who will be giving a keynote address from his experience presiding over the Ashmore Reef Siev 36 coronial; International Red Cross War Surgeon Dr Chris Giannou, who will be talking about his experiences as a surgeon in conflicts across the world; and UN Humanitarian Programs Director Larry Hollingworth, who will be presenting his experiences while working in conflict zones such as Sarajevo and Bosnia.

** FORUM PROGRAM**

3.30pm: Welcome to Country.

3.35pm: Welcome by Dr Len Notaras, Executive Director National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre.

3.40pm: Health Minister Kon Vatskalis.

3.50pm: President of Timor-Leste Dr Jose Ramos-Horta – via video link.

4.10pm: Dr Ian Norton, National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC).

4.15pm: Northern Territory Coroner Mr Greg Cavanagh.

4.40pm: Dr David Read, Director of Trauma, National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre.

4.45pm: ICRC War Surgeon Dr Chris Giannou.

5.20pm: United Nations Humanitarian Programs Director Mr Larry Hollingworth.

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