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Mental Health Boost with In-Patient Bed Increase at RDH

A major refurbishment will be undertaken at Royal Darwin Hospital with the awarding of a tender to provide five additional mental health in-patient beds.

The funds are part of $13.9 million package announced last year to provide secure care facilities and additional beds in both Alice Springs and Royal Darwin Hospitals for young people and adults with complex needs.

In addition to the increase of in patient beds, through Kyoto Contracting, the secure care initiative will deliver two community based therapeutic homes for adults and young people.

“The Territory Government is committed to the provision of quality services to both young people and adults requiring mental health services,” Health Minister Kon Vatskalis said.

“This Government has dramatically increased the Mental Health Budget from $16 million to over $42 million today – that’s more than doubled funding since coming to Government.”

Mr Vatskalis said that the five additional mental health beds at Royal Darwin Hospital would bring the total at RDH to 31 beds, and an additional six beds in Alice Springs Hospital will bring capacity to 14 beds.

“The need for youth focused mental health in-patient options is recognised and is being acted on,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“This Government is also pushing ahead with the residential component of the secure care initiative to meet the needs of this young vulnerable client group.

“Darwin and Alice Springs will have secure care facilities built to meet the need of a highly vulnerable section of our community who require this type of therapeutic facility.

“Assessments, scoping and consultations are being carried out by the Department of Health and Families at the proposed sites - Old Man Plains in Alice Springs and Section 3300 Foundation Road in Pinelands.

“The NT Government last year announced almost $14 million to fund Secure Care Facilities for Darwin and Alice Springs to cater for the wellbeing of a small number of children and young people with behavioural problems, as well as adults with disabilities.

“As I have repeatedly said, it is our role and obligation to care for those who are vulnerable in our society, and I want to see these facilities built and taking on clients as soon as possible.”

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