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Two Local Hospital Networks Chosen For Northern Territory

Health Minister Kon Vatskalis announced today the NT Government is supporting the formation of two separate Local Hospital Networks in the Northern Territory.

Mr Vatskalis said after an extensive community consultative process, the NT Government will support the new structure of a Central Australian network for Alice Springs and Tennant Creek Hospitals.

A Top End Local Hospital Network will also be established for Royal Darwin Hospital, Katherine District Hospital and Gove District Hospital.

“Local Hospital Networks will be made up of small groups of public hospitals and are a key element of the Federal Government’s National Health Reform agenda,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The National Health Reforms and their implementation provide us with a significant opportunity to reshape and influence the delivery of health services in the NT.

“I will be advising the Australian Government that the NT wants Local Hospital Networks for Central Australia and the Top End.

“Two networks will strengthen the hospitals in the regional areas as they will be better supported by the larger hospitals.”

The Australian Government is expected to make the final decision on the Local Hospital Networks by December 31 2010, with networks expected to commence operations on July 1, 2012.

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