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New Electronic X-Ray System Rolled Out Across NT

Territorians will receive faster and more effective hospital treatment with the launch of a new electronic imaging system allowing doctors across the Territory instant access to all forms of X-ray imaging.

Chief Minister, Paul Henderson, today visited the NT Trauma Centre to launch the Picture Archiving Communications System (PACS).

“This new system allows all forms of X-ray imaging including MRI, CT and Ultrasound scans to be captured, stored and then viewed from a desktop computer across the Northern Territory’s hospital network using an internet-based program,” Mr Henderson said.

“When you consider how vast our Territory is, this ground breaking project is another important step in improving the lives of Territorians and their families.

“This groundbreaking system will provide faster and a more co-ordinated approach to patient care by providing doctors instant access to images and reports.

“The system also allows the transfer of images between doctors when seeking second opinions and ultimately improve the treatment of patient.

“This is yet another example of how the Northern Territory Government is bringing patient care closer to home and reducing the need for patients to be transferred from remote areas to hospital for simple x-rays.

“While doctors outside the Northern Territory will also be able to access patient images.”

The $2.8 million project was funded by the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre as part of the Australian Government’s national trauma response infrastructure.
“The Territory’s eHealth NT Shared Electronic Health Record service is recognised nationally as leading the way in e-health, and this is a great example of the initiative in action.

“It is also a great example of how the Australian Government’s funding of the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre is benefiting our health system and is critical to our disaster response capabilities.”

Mr Henderson said radiography units have also been set up in remote communities including Wadeye, Port Keats, Nguiu, Borroloola, Papunya and Yuendumu to allow local doctors and nurses to take X-rays, send them to the Picture Archiving Communications System and have specialist doctors to review the images within minutes of the X-ray being completed.

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