Talking Posters Get The Message Out

Talking posters in six of central Australia’s common Aboriginal languages are now being used to keep mental health patients well informed, Health Minister Kon Vatskalis said today.

Unveiling the new resource in Alice Springs today, Mr Vatskalis said the “One Talk” posters are a unique and innovative way of communicating with patients who do not have English as their first language.

“Proper communications with non first-language English speakers is absolutely vital in the health care setting and can be a significant challenge, especially if patients and clients are not strongly literate,’ Mr Vatskalis said.

“The One Talk mental health project is an innovative and cost effective solution to the communications challenge.”

Mr Vatskalis said the scripts in Arrernte, Pitjantjara, Warlpiri, Luritja and Alyawarra were worked on by Aboriginal staff from the mental health area, and recorded with the assistance of NT Indigenous Interpreter Services.

“The One Talk posters utilise push-button technology to give patients easily understandable audio explanations of such key issues as legal rights, participation and quality of their treatment, and how personal information is handled,’ Mr Vatskalis said.

“The talking boards are now displayed within the Mental Health Unit where they are accessible to all inpatients. I am advised that they are being well utilised, and are much appreciated by the patients.

“I am confident it will continue to prove popular with the patients themselves, with clinical staff and with the Community Visitor Program which has been working with the service to ensure people are made aware of their various rights and responsibilities.”

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