June 07, 2012

Health Reform On Agenda

The Northern Territory Government remains committed to implementing health reform that will focus on strengthening our health system, Health Minister Kon Vatskalis said today ahead of the Australian Health Ministers Conference.

Mr Vatskalis is in Melbourne for the conference where he said he would firmly place the Territory’s unique demographics at the top of continuing health reform talks with the Federal Government.

Today’s talks will focus specifically on the national performance and accountability framework and legislation associated with this.

“The NT Government supports the Federal Gillard Government’s health reforms and we are still working through details in a collaborative manner,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The Territory has the sickest people living here and we also have the busiest hospitals in the country, so the NT Government is committed to a health system that addresses our unique situation.

“We remain committed to implementing health reform, and transparency about the performance of the Northern Territory health system - including hospitals - is critical to this.”

Mr Vatskalis said the national Health Reform package had already delivered a $70 million Federal Government commitment to build a Palmerston Hospital, as well as $5 million to build a second GP Superclinic in the northern suburbs.

“Territory and Federal Labor Governments have worked hand in hand to deliver better health outcomes for Territorians,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“Labor Governments are committed to accessible, affordable and quality health care, and together we have seen the delivery of the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre, a GP Superclinic in Palmerston and the NT Medical School.

“This is why the NT Government is also contributing $40 million towards the Palmerston Hospital and are committed to another Superclinic in the northern suburbs.”

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746