15 September, 2011

Health Minister To Meet With Trauma Centre Team and Timor Leste Health Officials

Health Minister Kon Vatskalis will be in Timor Leste today where the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre has been deployed to provide medical assistance for the Tour de Timor.

Mr Vatskalis will meet with the 18-member team on the ground where they have set up a field hospital each day as the race takes the riders through five districts in Timor-Leste.

This is the first year there has been formal medical management for the race.

“Royal Darwin Hospital and the National Critical care and Trauma Response Centre is recognised nationally for its response preparedness,” Mr Vatskalis said

“So much so, that the Trauma team was requested to provide medical support by the President of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Dr Jose Ramos-Horta.

“So far the team has provided assistance to 100 bike riders suffering from heat related illness and wounds and grazes.”

Mr Vatskalis said boxes of medical supplies prepared by the Trauma Response Centre have been gifted to five health clinics in Timor-Leste, and he would be distributing another box to the Dili Hospital tomorrow.

Mr Vatskalis will also meet with East Timor’s Health Minister Nelson Martins today to discuss progression on the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Timor Leste Ministry of Health and the NT's Department of Health.

“The current Memorandum of Understanding sets out a framework for the type of supports we can provide to the health service in Timor – including specialised advice and assistance in areas such as dengue and tuberculosis control,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“I hope to discuss with Timor Leste’s Health Minister ways we can further support to the Dili Hospital. This is an opportunity for further collaboration between the NT and a neighbouring country with which we have many close links.”

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