Royal Darwin Hospital will receive a record budget of $335 million in 2012-13, up $20 million from last year.

Health Minister, Kon Vatskalis, said the funding boost continued the Territory Government’s commitment to the health system.

“Affordable, accessible and quality health care are major priorities for the Territory Labor Government, and the increased funding will continue to deliver the record number of doctors and nurses at Royal Darwin Hospital, the Territory’s flagship health facility,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The extra funding means RDH is able to continue to implement strategies to meet the growing demands, providing more doctors and nurses and to continue to reduce elective surgery waiting times to meet our targets.

“Since coming to office, the Territory Labor Government has increased funding to Royal Darwin Hospital by 182%,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The Royal Darwin Hospital now has 322 doctors and 993 nurses. An increase of 153 doctors and 401 nurses since 2002.

“As well as the boost in the Territory Budget, 2012 will see some of our major upgrades continuing to be rolled out across the Hospital, including $67m in Commonwealth funding for:

- upgrades to increase the number of beds in the Emergency Department and Short Stay Unit and to provide two additional operating theatres;
- Construction of a 50 unit patient accommodation complex;
- The creation of a Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) unit which will decrease hospital stays and improve care of the elderly. The unit will also provide geriatric consultation to the patients of the hospital, and will integrate seamlessly with community services.

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