April 27, 2012

Additional Crew to Be Based in Palmerston

An additional 24/7 St John Ambulance crew and vehicle will be located in Palmerston from tomorrow, Health Minister Kon Vatskalis announced today.

The NT Government has negotiated to have the additional vehicle and crew based at Palmerston as an interim measure for the next two months to deal with the increased demand on the service from the Federal Government’s Wickham Point Detention Facility.

The arrangement will be in place for the next two months while the NT and Federal Government negotiate a long term Memorandum of Understanding.

“I undertook to have this issue resolved as a matter of urgency and I can confirm from tomorrow St John will have an additional, fully equipped paramedic team based out at Palmerston to service Wickham Point as well as the surrounding area,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The NT Government has agreed with the Commonwealth Government to have this resolved.”

The Commonwealth Government will ensure that the cost of ambulance call-outs to Immigration Detention Facilities in Darwin are met.

The Commonwealth is implementing a range of measures to reduce the number of call-outs which are expected to significantly reduce the impact on the NT ambulance service.

This includes a 24 hour a day, seven day a week primary health service at the detention centre that has been fully functioning since April 13.

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