Health Budget Funding Skyrockets in 2012

The Northern Territory Health Budget will be boosted by a record $107 million in Budget 2012 – bringing the overall budget to $1.222 billion, compared to the $1.115 billion 2011-12.

This represents a 152% increase in the Health Budget since Labor Government came to office.

“In just one year the NT Labor Government is boosting the Territory Health Budget by $107 million - bringing the overall budget to a new record of over $1.2 billion,” Health Minister Kon Vatskalis said.

“This is an absolute testament to the Labor Government’s commitment to ensuring all Territorians can access high quality and affordable public health care.”

“The Territory Government continues to be successful in lobbying the Federal Government for an increase in funding to Health in the Northern Territory and this year’s Budget also reflects this, with around $20 million of the increase being from the Commonwealth Government.

“Unlike the CLP, who will rip the health budget apart at the first given opportunity, Labor Government will always make Health a priority for Territorians.”

Mr Vatskalis today made the Budget funding announcement at the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre which recently celebrated its 2nd birthday. The Territory Government is spending $7.3 million delivering high level cancer care across the Territory this year.

“In the past two years we have seen great progress made in the delivery of cancer treatment in the Northern Territory,” he said.

“The Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre is hands down a world class facility with top of the range technology and its top class clinical staff.

“Within the two years the Cancer Centre has treated over 730 patients with radiotherapy and the same number with chemotherapy.”

Mr Vatskalis said the most recent highlight is the successful implementation of the latest generation radiation treatment technology targeting head and neck cancers.

“These capabilities and initiatives are an example of what can be achieved through the passion and commitment of the team at the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre.”
Mr Vatskalis said other highlights from Budget 2012 include:

- Investment in community support services with $98 million towards frail aged people and people with a disability;
- An additional $10.7 million towards the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme;
- $28 million as part of Careflight’s ongoing budget
- $53 million for Mental Health Services across the Territory including $11.4 million for the running of the Territory’s first secure care facilities in Darwin and Alice Springs.

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