MINISTER FOR HEALTH
MINISTER FOR ALCOHOL REHABILITATION

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ON THE DRAWING BOARD

April 9th, 2013

Health Minister Robyn Lambley has been briefed on plans to build a new Emergency Department at Gove District Hospital.

Visiting the hospital as part of a tour of Health Department assets in East Arnhem, Mrs Lambley said the entire Gove community will benefit from the $13 million facility.

“The new Emergency Department will mean better access to quality emergency care for Nhulunbuy and the East Arnhem region and vastly improved working conditions for staff,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Back in the 1960s the current Emergency Department was the original Gove Hospital building, so a new facility is long overdue.

“The Country Liberals Government is unashamedly about growing northern Australia. We have recently shown our commitment to Nhulunbuy and East Arnhem on Gas to Gove, now we’re value adding that investment.

“While designs are still to be bedded down, the new purpose-built facility will be a huge improvement on the current building, with modern design and bigger capacity.

“Patient flow will be more efficient and staff will be better able to deal with peak periods.

“It will be designed to cope with increased demand in the future.

“There will also be significant savings in patient travel costs, with many more patients expected to be treated locally.”

Funded as part of the Federal Government’s Health and Hospitals scheme, construction is due to commence later this year with completion expected by late 2014 or early 2015.

As well as the 5000 strong Nhulunbuy population, Gove District Hospital also services approximately 9000 people across 40,000 square kilometres including Ramingining to the west and Numbulwar in the south.

Mrs Lambley also today met with staff at health centres in Yirrkala and Miwatj, toured the Centre for Disease Control and visited Nhulunbuy Alcohol and Other Drugs Rehabilitation Service.

“Mandatory rehabilitation is a key plank in the Government’s commitment to reducing the impact of alcohol on East Arnhem communities and services like the Nhulunbuy Centre have an important role to play in the future,” she said.

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