GREEN LIGHT FOR NEW UMBAKUMBA HEALTH CLINIC

May 22nd, 2013

The efforts of Member for Arnhem, Larisa Lee and Health Minister Robyn Lambley have secured funding to construct a brand new health clinic in the Groote Eylandt community of Umbakumba.

The Territory Government has allocated $2 million to the project, which was shelved by the previous Labor Government last year.

“When I became Health Minister, one of the first people to visit my office was Larisa Lee, who asked me what was happening with the Umbakumba health clinic,” Mrs Lambley said.

“I told her I would look into this matter and after discussions with Health Department officials I found out this project had been stalled since July last year.

“It is because of Larisa’s hard work and commitment to the people of Umbakumba, Groote Eylandt and the Arnhem electorate that funding for this clinic has now been approved and work will begin in coming months.”

Every year the Umbakumba health clinic treats hundreds of patients and there is a real need for improved services so it can continue to treat the community’s 450 residents.

The new clinic will cost $6 million to construct, with the Federal Government contributing $1 million and Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE) contributing $3 million in addition to the Territory Government’s $2 million.

“This announcement by the Northern Territory Government is great news for the Umbakumba Community and the people of Groote Eylandt,” Ms Lee said.

“I have listened to the residents of this community and I heard very clearly that a new health clinic is needed because the one we’re using now is old and is too small for the medical staff and the large number of people who use it.

“What is needed is a bigger health centre which will have improved facilities and more space for doctors, nurses and patients.”

Work on the new facility is expected to commence in coming months.

Mrs Lambley made the announcement during a whistle-stop inspection of health facilities in East Arnhem today.

The visit included tours of the Milingimbi Clinic, Gapuwiyak Clinic and facilities on Groote Eylandt.

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