Darwin construction company Halikos has been awarded a multi-million dollar contract to expand patient and surgical capacity at Royal Darwin Hospital.

Health Minister, Robyn Lambley, said the $22.1 million upgrade will provide additional patient beds and improve conditions for hard-working clinicians at the hospital.

“The expansion will help meet growing demand for services at Royal Darwin Hospital,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Royal Darwin has one of the busiest Emergency Departments in Australia and, as the Top End grows, it is important that the hospital expands to meet increasing demand.”

Due to begin next month, the works are part of a National Partnership Agreement centring around the Operating Theatre and the Emergency Department Short Stay Unit.

“The Short Stay Unit will be relocated and expanded to 12 beds for admissions under emergency specialists, with the current nine Short Stay Beds converted to become nine extra Emergency Department beds,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Two more Operating Theatres will be built, increasing their total number to nine. This will allow for additional surgical sessions, increasing the hospital’s elective surgery capacity.

“There will also be new space for additional services arising from the Short Stay Unit upgrade, clinician office space and a full fit out.

“The works complement the recent positive outcomes from the Government’s $4.46 million Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan which targets an additional 400 surgeries per year.

“The hospital is also currently undergoing a clinical redesign aimed at maximising inpatient bed capacity and access to services.

“In addition, the Government has allocated $40 million to build a new hospital in Palmerston with a scoping study and clinical review underway to determine the future direction of health services in the Top End.

“It is anticipated ED wait times will also improve in Alice Springs on the back of the town’s new $25 million Emergency Department.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to a healthier Territory, with the $1.36 billion allocated in the 2013 Budget an increase of $136 million on the previous year.”

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