Locals, fishos and visitors to the Dundee Beach area will have access to a quality first aid service thanks to the combined efforts of local member for Daly, Gary Higgins and Health Minister, Robyn Lambley.

Budget 2013 provided an additional $100,000 over four years to operate the new volunteer first aid post, which was completed in February 2013 at a total cost of $350,000.

This is on top of the $11,000 a year the first aid post already receives from Government.

In addition, the Bendigo Bank has offered to support the first aid post through the purchase of medical equipment.

Dundee is one of the Top End’s most visited fishing hot-spots. About an hour’s drive from Darwin, it is a magnet for anglers as well as being a popular weekend get-away for families.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the funding announcement, Mr Higgins said in its early years the first aid post was moved from place to place, finally settling on Noel and Jenny Whyte’s property in 2004.

“When this situation was no longer tenable, the Department of Health and the Dundee Progress Association worked together to build a new, dedicated facility in Lepanto Road,” Mr Higgins said.

“I would like to acknowledge the role of Health Minister Robyn Lambley who provided funding to operate this facility within the health budget.

“The post is operated by volunteers and will be a first point of call between immediate first aid and more complex medical follow-up back in Darwin.

“I would like to thank everybody who has volunteered at the first aid post over the past 20 years.”

Mrs Lambley said money to operate the post came from within the Health Budget after Gary Higgins highlighted the important role the facility plays within the local community.

“Since 2004, the Department has provided support through volunteer training and associated accommodation, consumables and equipment such as dressings, telephone and satellite communications, registration and maintenance of a vehicle and administration,” Mrs Lambley said.

“The post will be leased at a peppercorn rent and the $100,000 allocated over four years is a significant investment.”

Treasurer David Tollner said supporting health services such as this important first aid facility was a priority under the Country Liberals Government.

“Dundee is a terrific spot and it’s important to have the facilities in place that are needed by the local community,” Mr Tollner said.

“The Country Liberals Government has shown its commitment to improving health services across the NT in a tough budget climate. We are committed to serving the major urban centres and the bush.”

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