Minister for Health Robyn Lambley has welcomed an election commitment from the Federal Coalition of $500,000 to fund chemotherapy services at Katherine Hospital.

The announcement to establish a chemotherapy service was made by Senator Nigel Scullion and leader of the National Party Warren Truss this afternoon.

"It’s great to see that a Federal Coalition Government will support regional areas of the Northern Territory like Katherine," Mrs Lambley said.

“I look forward to working with them closely to develop ongoing services to support this new infrastructure.”

Around 15 patients from the Katherine Region currently receive chemotherapy treatment at the state-of-the-art Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre based at Royal Darwin Hospital.

“The addition of a chemotherapy service at Katherine Hospital will mean that some of these patients can receive their chemotherapy treatment without needing to travel to Darwin.

“Patients would still need to visit the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre and Royal Darwin Hospital for assessment and ongoing specialist care as well as some of their testing including MRI scans.

“With the right services in place, a chemotherapy service at Katherine Hospital will allow for some low acuity chemotherapy services to be accessed closer to home over a course of treatment.

“I have asked the Department of Health to investigate service model options to support a chemotherapy service in Katherine and I will put these options to the Federal Coalition to ensure we can deliver this service safely and to a high standard.”

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