Minister for Health Robyn Lambley officially opened a new $2 million respite care facility in Alice Springs today.

Alice Springs Community Respite House, in the suburb of Araluen, provides daytime care for residents of Alice Springs and the wider Central Australian community who are aged and frail, suffer from a chronic disease or require palliative care.

“This facility provides an opportunity for families and carers to take a break from the demanding and very generous full-time role of caring for their loved ones,” Mrs Lambley said.

The purchase and fit-out of the Spicer Crescent facility was made possible following a submission to the National Partnership Agreement – Improving Public Hospital Services.

The four-bedroom, two-bathroom facility will enable families and carers to take a break while providing patients with access to GPs and other health professionals.

“Up to six people can utilise these services each day – this will help Central Australian families a great deal by providing their loved ones with specialised care.”

Patients being managed by the palliative care team, as well as people with a chronic disease who are cared for at home, will benefit most from the new facility.

“Referrals will also be taken from non-government organisations working with palliative care and chronic disease patients, lightening the burden on their services too,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Equipped with a kitchen, two living areas and an outside sitting area surrounded by established gardens, the centre will offer a sanctuary for both patients and carers.”

The respite house has been modified to cater for wheelchair and elderly patients and will offer light meals, television, activities, a restful garden as well as visits from GPs and other health professionals.

A nurse and patient care assistant will staff the facility.

Media Contact:
Georgia McCabe 0438 384 506