Sick children at the Royal Darwin Hospital were today treated with a visit by some scaly and feathered friends from the Territory Wildlife Park.

Minister for Parks and Wildlife Bess Price said the animals provide a welcome distraction from illness.

“It’s so great to see the joy on the faces of these sick children when they get to see and touch the wildlife,” Mrs Price said.

“It’s clear by all the smiles that this visit has brightened the spirits of these young patients.

“The blue tongue lizard and baby crocodile were a huge hit, however there was a bit of hesitation around the big snake.”

The children, aged up to 14 years old, revelled in the up close interaction with these native animals.

“For sick children, stuck in a hospital all day, the opportunity to have a giggle and think about something other than being sick can play an important role in their recovery.”

The Territory Wildlife Park brought along a blue tongue lizard, an albino python, baby crocodile, rufous owl and fruit bat.

The visit also included the palliative care patients at the hospice.

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