Minister for Health

MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR UPGRADE ON TRACK FOR RDH PAEDIATRIC WARD

7 May, 2014

Minister for Health Robyn Lambley has today visited Royal Darwin Hospital’s paediatric ward ahead of its multi-million dollar refurbishment as part of Budget 2014.

“Last year the paediatric wards at RDH treated 2543 children from across the Northern Territory,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Territory children have always received excellent care at RDH but an upgrade has long been called for.

“At present, the wards are based across two levels in the hospital, with a split between the general paediatrics ward and the isolation and burns beds.

“The $11.9 million Commonwealth funded refurbishment means that paediatric services will be on the same level.

“It will be purpose built to provide excellent paediatric care, including burns, oncology, orthopaedic and other surgery and infectious diseases.

“The upgrade includes a designated combined oncology and day treatment area, a fully functional tele-health room and a high dependency area.

“The culturally appropriate facility will also improve the experience for parents, with shower and toilet facilities, a lounge and respite room.”

Mrs Lambley said a purpose built play area and centrally located school room would help to create a friendly and welcoming environment for children.

“For teenage patients there will also be a purpose-built 4-bed adolescent area,” Mrs Lambley said.

“The upgrade has long been promised by Labor, but never delivered. Like all Labor governments, they love to make big promises, with little to show as a result.

“Only the Country Liberals can be trusted to deliver for our children’s future.”

Planning and design works on the paediatric ward upgrade are due to start in August, with construction work to begin in February.

Mrs Lambley said the $22.2 million Commonwealth funded upgrade of the RDH Short Stay Unit and Operating Theatre expansion was also 50 per cent complete.

“Building works for the two new operating theatres began last month, with the Short Stay Unit for the ED expected to commence in August,” Mrs Lambley said.
“The upgrade is expected to be completed by early next year and will greatly improve RDH’s capacity to provide elective surgery and reduced congestion and waiting times in ED for Territorians.

“The upgrade will see an additional nine ED beds and the Short Stay Unit will expand from nine to thirteen beds.

“The two additional operating theatres will bring the total number of theatres to nine, increasing the capacity of the hospital to undertake elective surgeries, which will help to reduce waiting times.”

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