Minister for Health

TIME TO CELEBRATE TERRITORY NURSES AND MIDWIVES

7 May, 2014

A week-long celebration of nurses and midwives has kicked off, with International Nurses Day and International Day of the Midwife a chance to honour our health professionals who are the backbone of the Northern Territory’s health system.

Minister for Health Robyn Lambley said this time of year was marked in the calendar of nurses and midwives across the Territory with a range of events and celebrations.

“It is important that we show our nurses they are highly valued members of the NT’s health care sector, and to celebrate and encourage outstanding achievement across their diverse profession,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Central Australian nurses and midwives have already begun their annual celebrations, with a function in Alice Springs last Wednesday.

“This week will culminate with the annual Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards at Parliament House on Friday.

“This year we have equalled our record for the most number of entries at 130.

“This almost doubles the amount of entries from last year – and a quarter of the entrants are from Central Australia.

“For the first time, the awards will also be celebrated across two sites, with nurses and midwives joining in via videolink from Alice Springs.

“To round out the week, Royal Darwin Hospital will host the annual Anne Arthur Research Awards on Monday 12 May, to coincide with International Nurses Day.

“This year also represents a major change in providing choice in midwifery care pathways for Territory women.

“The Health Practitioner Regulation Amendment Bill, which was successfully passed in March, will enable midwives to enter the private practice in the NT.

“The Department of Health has been working on a framework to guide the process for privately practicing midwives, with stakeholder consultation due to begin this week.

“Territory women will soon be able to access continuity of care delivered by a privately practising midwife, and midwives will have private practice as a career option.”

Mrs Lambley said the Strategic Plan for Nurse Practitioners introduced earlier this year will also see an additional 25 full time positions by 2016.
"Nurse Practitioners provide high quality and cost effective care, and will be a key part in the Government’s commitment to health reform across the Territory," Mrs Lambley said.

“The addition of Nurse Practitioners with a focus on remote and Indigenous health will help to enhance outcomes, particularly for children, chronic disease management including diabetes and heart disease, and mental health.”

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