Minister for Health

MAJOR REFORMS PASS TO ESTABLISH HEALTH SERVICES FRAMEWORK

8 May, 2014

New legislation that will revolutionise the way health services are delivered has been passed in the Northern Territory parliament today.

Minister for Health Robyn Lambley said the Health Services Act establishes two Boards of Management – the Top End Health Service (TEHS) and the Central Australia Health Service (CAHS).

“TEHS and CAHS will be the principal providers of public health services in the Territory,” Mrs Lambley said.

“This means that the management of health services across the NT will no longer be centralised with major decision-making driven solely from Darwin.

“The changes will ensure that local people are making local decisions about health care in their communities.

“TEHS and CAHS will be given the responsibility to manage major facilities, to create a more contemporary health service.

“CAHS will manage the Tennant Creek and Alice Springs hospitals and Central Australian health services, and TEHS will manage hospitals in Darwin, Katherine and Nhulunbuy and Top End health services.

“The management of the budget for health services will also shift from the Department of Health to the two Boards appointed by the Minister for Health from July 1 2014.

“The TEHS and CAHS will also each have a Chief Operating Officer (COO).

“Each board and their COO will negotiate an annual Service Delivery Agreement with the Department of Health. They will then work collaboratively with the Department to implement those agreements.

“The CEO of the Health Department and the Minister have the powers necessary to ensure our health system remains world class.

“All employees of the Department and the two Health Services will continue to be employed by the Commissioner for Public Employment as outlined in the Public Service and Employment Management Act.”

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