Robyn Lambley
Minister for Health

Willem Westra van Holthe, Member for Katherine

Chemotherapy services to soon operate in Katherine

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Minister for Health Robyn Lambley has today inspected a new unit in the Katherine Hospital that will be dedicated to caring for chemotherapy patients closer to home.

Mrs Lambley said she was pleased that a Federal Government funding agreement had been struck to implement and operate the service for local residents to receive treatment in the town.

“The Federal Government pledged $500,000 for the infrastructure to implement chemotherapy services at the Katherine Hospital,” Mrs Lambley said.

“I’m delighted the Federal Government has also contributed another $2 million to ensure this service can operate for the next three years.

“Patients from Katherine and the surrounding region currently have to travel to Royal Darwin Hospital’s Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre (AWCCC) for treatment.

“In the last two years, about 60 patients from the Katherine region have been diagnosed with cancer and treated at the AWCCC.

“The AWCCC provides excellent care, but having a service in Katherine means patients have easy access to high quality services and can go home after their treatment, which is very beneficial for their physical and mental wellbeing.”

Member for Katherine Willem Westra van Holthe said the chemotherapy service was likely to be up and running by early 2015 with the delivery of the first chemotherapy chair.

“Cancer places a heavy burden on both patients and their families, and delivering this service to Katherine will make a big difference to the health outcomes of local residents.

“The Federal and Territory Governments are committed to investing in services in the Katherine region, to boost the health outcomes of local residents.”

Katherine cancer patient Lynda Osburn said she was very pleased that there would soon be a local service available.
“I am delighted to know that sometime soon I and many other people will be able to have treatment close to home,” Ms Osburn said.

“Currently I travel to Darwin on a regular basis to receive treatment for breast cancer.

“It will be such a relief to me, my family and friends, and other women to know that we will receive our chemotherapy at our local hospital.”

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