The Northern Territory’s new health services framework officially starts tomorrow, establishing two boards – the Top End Health Service (TEHS) and the Central Australia Health Service (CAHS).

Minister for Health Robyn Lambley said the legislative changes would ensure that the management of health services across the NT would no longer be centralised in Darwin.

“The changes will ensure that local people are making local decisions about health care in their communities,” Mrs Lambley said.

“The Central Australia Health Service board led by chair Damien Ryan will manage the Tennant Creek and Alice Springs hospitals and other health care services.

“The Top End Health Service board led by chair Annette Burke will manage hospitals in Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and other primary health care services.

"The Boards will report to me about a range of matters, including the health priorities of the communities for whom they serve”.

CAHS board chair Damien Ryan said feedback had confirmed that the community would receive a closer connection with public health services, and service delivery would increasingly reflect the needs of the people in Central Australia.

“The CAHS Board is acutely aware there are many challenges such as the burden of chronic disease, mental health issues, provision of quality hospital care and comprehensive primary health care and attracting and retaining a skilled workforce across Central Australia,” Mr Ryan said.

“We look forward to a strong collaborative partnership with the Department of Health.”

TEHS board chair Annette Burke said the board was keen to be involved in supporting and promoting the delivery of health services to ensure Territorians are provided with safe, comprehensive health care.

“The Board is drafting a strategic plan for the TEHS with a focus on working together to provide better care, better health and better communities,” Mrs Burke said.
“The TEHS Board will work with the Department of Health and the CAHS Board to promote, protect and improve the health and wellbeing of all Territorians in partnership with individuals, families and the community to ensure the delivery of best and most appropriate evidence based care.”

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