Media Release

Robyn Lambley
Minister for Alcohol Rehabilitation

**Alcohol Mandatory Treatment moves to new facility in Darwin**

17 September 2014

The Minister for Alcohol Rehabilitation Robyn Lambley has today toured part of the new facility for the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment program in Darwin.

“Today I visited the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment facility at Berrimah where clients in the program performed a smoking ceremony to mark its opening,” Mrs Lambley said.

“The smoking ceremony was the clients’ idea, to cleanse the buildings before they brought in their belongings and spent their first night in the new centre.

“This is a temporary facility for Alcohol Mandatory Treatment, while the permanent facility is being refurbished next door.

“Clients participating in Alcohol Mandatory Treatment have named this new facility the ‘Stringybark Centre’.

“The clients are excited to move into the Stringybark Centre and have named all of the Centre’s buildings, including a training room, after native flora and fauna.

“Over the next several months, the Living Skills Unit next door will be refurbished to form the permanent ‘Stringybark Centre’.

“The $5 million refurbishment will include a new medical facility to manage detoxification and assessments as well as spacious treatment and rehabilitation areas, and these are expected to be completed by early next year.

“It will also include a cultural area, training and educational facilities designed to support residents to finish their time in rehabilitation and take on work or further training.

“The Stringybark Centre will have 78 treatment beds and 12 beds for the assessment process that is required under AMT. It also has the capacity to expand the number of beds in the future.

“Today 17 Alcohol Mandatory Treatment clients have been transferred from the previous AMT facility near Royal Darwin Hospital, known as the Darwin medi-hotel.
“This was necessary so that the medi-hotel can re-open as a short term accommodation centre for Royal Darwin Hospital patients, with the first 20 patients to be transferred by the end of this month.

“Only the Country Liberals Government is serious about tackling alcohol abuse in the community, and I am proud to say that Alcohol Mandatory Treatment is helping to change lives and re-connect people with their family and communities, as well as training and employment.”

Media Contact: Phoebe Stewart  0438885774  (08) 8928 6649