Media Release

Robyn Lambley
Minister for Health

First of new bush clinics open at Ntaria

20 November 2014

The first of seven new remote health centres has been officially opened today at Hermannsburg (Ntaria).

Minister for Health, Robyn Lambley explained that the $5.5m facility is the first project completed as part of a $50.29m project to upgrade or completely replace 11 remote health centres across the Northern Territory.

“In remote communities, the health centre is often a key piece of infrastructure and is integral to the health and wellbeing of the community,” Mrs Lambley said.

“It is a great pleasure to deliver this brand new, culturally sensitive facility that will meet the primary healthcare needs of the Ntaria community.

“Having a strong primary healthcare focus ensures we have good health promotion and prevention and that we are better equipped to manage health issues before they become so serious that they need to be treated in hospital. It also means we’ve got good follow-on care when people return to community after a hospital stay.”

“The new clinic has been designed with sensitivity to the cultural needs of the local community, delivering separate men’s and women’s waiting rooms as well as four separate consult rooms – two for men and two for women.”

An emergency room with the capacity for two clients and a dedicated ambulance entry allows for the smooth transfer of patients in and out of the clinic.

Two new renal chairs will double the clinic’s existing dialysis facilities whilst a dental room will mean that a dental therapist can travel to the area to assess patients and carry out oral hygiene checks ahead of a dentist.

Telehealth facilities will have their own dedicated space for private and speedy diagnoses of more complex issues requiring the consultation of a doctor via computer.

A multi-purpose room, two children’s rooms, a hearing room, an X-ray room and an impressive pharmacy complete the new clinic.
“This state-of-the-art clinic will be more comfortable for patients and staff whilst delivering quality health services on country,” Mrs Lambley said.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service will continue to deliver Mental Health Services from the clinic whilst Congress and Western Aranda Health Aboriginal Corporation (WAHAC) will have staff at the facility as well.

A number of Territory companies were integral in the project.

“Mode Design as consultant architects has delivered a great plan, constructed by Probuild and utilising the services of local subcontractors Steel Solutions, A Dobbs Contracting, Barker Hume, Ingkerrek, Ilparpa Nursery and BT Daley.”

“The next facility to be built under this program is Elliott which will be due for completion in June 2015. Docker River (Kaltukatjara) will follow in October 2015.

Other communities to benefit from the funding are Papunya, Canteen Creek, Ngukurr, Galiwinku, Numbulwar, Maningrida, Titjikala and Robinson River.

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