Robyn Lambley  
Minister for Health

**MRI service now available at Alice Springs Hospital**

26 September 2014

Patients in Central Australia can now receive MRI scans for the first time, with the installation of a new Magnetic Resonance Imaging machine at Alice Springs Hospital.

Minister for Health Robyn Lambley inspected the new machine today, which has been operating out of the hospital’s Medical Imaging unit.

“The introduction of the service will mean faster investigation and diagnosis of tumours and diseases related to internal organs as well as soft tissue, ligament and spinal injuries,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Having an MRI in Alice Springs has greatly increased the hospital’s diagnostic capacity and provides peace of mind that people requiring a scan can be seen quickly and don’t have to travel.

“It is expected that the introduction of MRI services on the ground in Central Australia will improve outcomes for some Aboriginal patients who may have been reluctant to travel the long distances previously required to receive these diagnostic scans.

“The number of patients requiring an MRI scan has been steadily increasing in recent years as has the cost of travel, making a strong case for the introduction of the service in the Centre.

“The MRI machine started operating two months ago and has been used for 250 patients so far,” Mrs Lambley said.

“It is exciting to see more services coming on line in Central Australia.

"The Country Liberals Government is committed to delivering on opportunities for more services within the Central Australia Health Service, and providing better access to health care for Central Australians."

The introduction of MRI services has been made possible thanks to a partnership between the Department of Health and Dr Jones and Partners, which provide most of the other medical imaging services in Central Australia.

“Dr Jones and Partners have an excellent reputation in medical imaging and we are fortunate to have this team operating this highly technical and valuable piece of equipment,” Mrs Lambley said.
Dr Jones and Partners established the service at a capital cost of $2 million, which included the refurbishment and implementation of the MRI in the Medical Imaging Unit.

The Central Australia Health Service also invested $450,000 for a fire and power structural upgrade and refurbishment for the installation of the MRI.

Media Contact: Phoebe Stewart  0438885774