Media Release

Robyn Lambley
Minister for Health

Multi-million dollar investment for Royal Darwin Hospital baby boom

1 September 2014

Minister for Health Robyn Lambley has announced that Royal Darwin Hospital will receive an immediate multi-million dollar boost to its maternity services to respond to the Top End’s baby boom.

“Currently there are more than 2000 births at RDH a year,” Mrs Lambley said.

“This represents an increase of more than 25% in the last four years.

“In 2013 there were 2044 births at RDH. As of 30 June this year, there have already been 1076 births.

“Our maternity services in Royal Darwin Hospital are among the best in the country and more women are choosing to birth at RDH than ever before.

“Royal Darwin Hospital has become the place of choice for Top End women to have their baby.

“The Country Liberals Government wants to make sure that we put services in place now that can respond to the growing demands.

“That is why the Country Liberals Government has decided to invest an extra $2.5 million to boost maternity services, for the recruitment of theatre nurses and midwives so that both Caesarian and delivery suite activity can be significantly enhanced.

"This will be further enhanced by the recruitment of an outreach midwife, as well as two additional obstetric specialists and an anaesthetist.

“The anaesthetist plus obstetrically trained theatre nurses, along with midwives and an anaesthetic specialist will significantly impact on throughput and further support an outstanding team of clinicians.

“This will ensure Royal Darwin Hospital maternity services remain at the top of the class for Territory women for years to come.

“This is another great initiative from the Country Liberals Government to improve access to health services for Territorians.
“The opening of the first 30 beds of the Short Term Accommodation facility at the end of this month will also further reduce pressure on the hospital.

“Royal Darwin Hospital and its staff work hard to provide excellent health care for Territorians and the Country Liberals Government is committed to policies and investment that build on this service.”

**Media Contact:** Phoebe Stewart 0438885774 (08) 8928 6649