Media Release

John Elferink
Minister for Health

New remote health centres to provide better outcomes for communities

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Two remote communities are next in line to receive new health centres as part of a $50 million Territory-wide bush infrastructure package.

Two local Alice Springs businesses have been awarded tenders to build the new health centres at Elliott and Canteen Creek.

Minister for Health John Elferink said more than $10 million has been allocated to build the two new centres in a bid to improve the health services in the bush communities.

“The new centres will replace existing aged infrastructure and allow for better healthcare delivery in the communities,” Mr Elferink said.

“I want the health centre to be a comfortable place where individuals feel encouraged to attend, and by doing, increasing the likelihood of identifying and treating health problems.”

The soon-to-be built $5.62 million health centre in Elliott will be the major Primary Health Care Centre for the Barkly Region and provide a culturally appropriate facility. Works will also shortly begin on the new $5.1 million health centre at Canteen Creek.

Mr Elferink said both facilities will feature an all-encompassing acute/emergency room and integrated primary and community care service.

“The health centres will be staffed by teams of community-based professionals, made up of Aboriginal Health Practitioners, administration and operational support staff, and nurses as well as support from visiting regional services,” Mr Elferink said.

“Centres will also be used to provide practical training and development for local Indigenous people to undertake a clinical training employment pathway.”

The first of seven new remote health centres across the Territory was officially opened at Ntaria (Hermannsburg) at the end of last year. Four more bush clinics are to receive upgrades under the program.
The health centres to be upgraded are Maningrida, Papunya, Docker River (Kaltukatjara) and Maryvale (Titjikala). New health clinics will also be built at Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Galiwinku and Robinson River.

The new bush health centres are funded by the Australian Government under the Health and Hospitals Fund Regional Priority.

Federal Minister for Health Sussan Ley said the Australian Government’s $10 million investment in primary and preventable health care will enable people to get the care they need earlier.

“Increased access to primary health services for regional Northern Territorians will help improve overall health outcomes and keep people well and out of hospital,” Ms Ley said.

“Through working and engaging with frontline health professionals and continuing to build primary health care services we can improve regional patient health outcomes.”

Alice Springs’ companies Probuild NT and Scope Building NT have been awarded contracts to build the new health clinics in Elliott and Canteen Creek respectively.

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