John Elferink  
Minister for Health

**Titjikala in line to receive health centre upgrades**

27 March 2015

A local Alice Springs company, Patrick Homes & Construction Pty Ltd, has won the tender to complete a $2.7 million upgrade of the health centre at Titjikala.

The planned extension and refurbishment is due to begin in the coming weeks and will allow for the delivery of improved health services at the remote community.

The changes to the centre will include an improved emergency room, two additional consulting rooms, a larger and more secure pharmacy and additional storage for bulk medical supplies.

Minister for Health John Elferink said the developments will allow people to access better quality medical assistance in a more modern facility.

“After years of neglect by both Federal and Territory Labor, bush communities are starting to see real change,” Mr Elferink said.

“By having better health services in people’s home communities, we are contributing to closing the gap in Indigenous health outcomes.”

Mr Elferink said the upgrade of the health centre at Titjikala has been designed with the local needs in mind, ensuring that the facility will be appropriate and continue to be used for years to come.

The extra consulting rooms will mean that patients can be seen confidentially and treated in a timelier manner, and the consulting rooms will be made culturally appropriate and gender specific.

The health centre will also be fitted with equipment so that locals can use the Northern Territory Government’s Telehealth, a service which connects patients in hard-to-reach places with specialist doctors and clinicians.

A weather protected ambulance bay with direct access to the emergency room will also be built.

Under the Commonwealth’s Health and Hospitals Fund Regional Priority, four remote communities will receive health clinic upgrades and seven more will advantage from a new health centre.

A new health centre at Ntaria has already been completed and an upgrade of the Maningrida health centre is nearing completion. Construction has commenced on new health centres at Canteen Creek.
and Elliott with an upgrade to Papunya also underway. A tender for the construction of a new health centre at Ngukurr has been released and closes on 22 April 2015.

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