John Elferink  
Minister for Health

Willem Westra van Holthe, Member for Katherine  
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Katherine cancer services boosted**

18 November 2015

The burden on cancer patients from Katherine and the Big Rivers region will be significantly reduced, with a new Day Stay Unit now operational at the Katherine Hospital.

Minister for Health John Elferink said there are more than 20 people in the region with a cancer diagnosis and six people are currently receiving low-risk chemotherapy in the unit.

“This is a major improvement in services for cancer sufferers, their families and friends; it means they will have to undertake the long drive to Darwin to receive treatment less frequently,” Minister Elferink said.

“The Country Liberals Government has worked hand in hand with the Federal Government to deliver this $2.5 million investment to the Katherine region.”

The Day Stay Unit will work in partnership with the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre in Darwin and will be staffed by a Clinical Nurse and a Registered Nurse with chemotherapy experience.

Member for Katherine Willem Westra van Holthe said the Unit is something he has been championing for some time.

“I’m pleased to be part of the team that has delivered this important service to the people of Katherine and surrounds,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“It means cancer patients will now be able to put all of their efforts into recovery and can receive treatment in their home town, reducing travel and accommodation costs.

“The Unit will provide low risk chemotherapy, blood tests, post and pre-treatment injections and support services to patients,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

Future expansion of services is planned so medium-risk chemotherapy patients can also be treated at the Unit.

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