Media Release

Bess Price
Minister for Parks and Wildlife

Territory Wildlife Park lights up the life of young Territorians in hospital this Xmas

9 December 2015

The Territory Wildlife Park (TWP) has been bringing joy to young, long term hospital patients since 2009.

This Christmas “Terri’ the Wallaby mascot along with three park employees will take Tropo the croc, Russelle the black-headed python, Milly the frill–necked lizard and Moe the blue-tongue lizard to meet the kids at Royal Darwin Hospital.

Territory Wildlife Park assistant curator Damien Stanioch said: “We try to get down to the hospital at least three or four times a year to visit the kids, it’s always a highlight to see their faces light up when they meet a croc or a lizard.

“It is important also that this is not only during the busy times of the year, we like to surprise them during the down time as this is when they need it the most,” he said

Minister for Parks and Wildlife Bess Price said: “Hospital can be a daunting time and the contact with wildlife can bring real peace to these children as they connect with nature.

“I always take time out when I can to visit the children when ‘Terri’ is around to join in on the fun.”

Royal Darwin Hospital Co-Director of Nursing, Division of Women, Children and Youth, Maureen Brittin said: “The Territory Wildlife Park visits are very much enjoyed by both patients and staff.

“The animals and the knowledge of their handlers provoke plenty of curiosity with the children.

“The visits help to lift spirits and produce smiles, which is a very important part of the healing process.”

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