Delivering Specialist Palliative Care for Alice Springs

2 December 2016

The Territory Labor Government is delivering on its election promise to provide a dedicated palliative care unit for Alice Springs.

The Health Minister Natasha Fyles said the 10 bed unit is a vital facility for the community and that health is a keen focus for this Government.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner, in Alice Springs today, visited the site where the facility will be built.

“All members of Parliament from Central Australia have lobbied hard for this because it’s important to the local community,” Ms Fyles said.

“Over the term of the former CLP Government, we saw the funding that had been secured for the palliative care unit, redirected towards a multi-purpose unit.”

The CLP proposal was to mix palliative care patients with long-stay rehabilitation or elderly patients awaiting nursing home placement.

Ms Fyles said there were serious community and stakeholder concerns around the CLP’s model.

“I have met with Alice Springs members of Palliative Care NT and heard their concerns about end of life care,” she said.

“They’ve outlined that a mixed service model isn’t best practice, creating difficulties for the patients and families.

“We have listened to the community’s wishes and we are delivering on them with a specialised palliative facility – as we promised during the election.”

The 10 bed palliative care unit is a $6.3 million project, jointly funded by the Commonwealth ($5.3 million) and Northern Territory Government ($1 million).

Located at the rear of the hospital, it will provide a home-like environment, with bedrooms leading to outdoor courtyards and a large communal lounge area and meeting rooms.
“End of life care is a very important time in a person’s life and for their family and friends and it’s important to get it right,” she said.

The design has been completed and the facility is expected to be built by August 2017.

Communications Adviser: Laetitia Lemke 0418 973 602