Natasha Fyles
Minister for Health

**Palmerston Regional Hospital Tour**

27 March 2017

The Health Minister toured the Palmerston Regional Hospital construction site today, viewing developments.

The Minister for Health Natasha Fyles said it was great to see the hospital really taking shape.

“We believe all Territorians are entitled to make choices over their lives and to access high quality services.

“That’s why this government is delivering the first new public hospital to be built in the Territory in over 40 years.

“$170 million capital-funded Hospital is being jointly funded by the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments.

“This month the structural steel roof framing is underway with the installation of sheeting to continue over the coming weeks.

“There are currently more than 240 staff working on the site and that is set to ramp up over the coming months.

“Fit out works are ongoing in all areas of the main building and wards including, mechanical, electrical, communications cabling, hydraulics firewalls and wet and dry fire systems, internal partition walls and linings.

“It’s a win for Territorians with 100 per cent of the contracts so far, awarded locally. That’s a current value of $102 million released to the market.

“As the Health Minister it’s important to stress that Royal Darwin Hospital will remain the Top End’s primary tertiary hospital, but PRH will play an important role.

“PRH will provide low acuity services including elective surgery, 24/7 emergency care for low-complexity cases, rehabilitation and Geriatric Evaluation and Management services.

“About 200 patients a year currently receive rehabilitation at the RDH, the majority are from the Top End.
“There will be three Specialist medical consultants, a full complement of nursing and allied health staff to support this level of rehabilitation care.

“Detailed clinical planning continues with staff, including lead medical, nursing and allied health clinicians to work through the detail of service delivery at the hospital.

"Construction of the 116-bed hospital is expected to be finished in March 2018 with a commissioning phase to follow.

“This commissioning phase is an essential step, checking that all hospital systems are operating safely before it opens to the public."

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