Work could start within days on Darwin’s $4 million hospice after the tender was awarded to local company PTM Company.

Minister for Health Dr Peter Toyne said the Territory’s first dedicated Hospice on the grounds of Royal Darwin Hospital is great for the health of the NT.

“The facility will contain 12 individual rooms with ensuite facilities and access to individual private garden areas.”

“The stand-alone Hospice, a key election promise, will provide specialised care and support to Territorians with a terminal illness and their families.”

“$900,000 has also been provided to train staff in preparation for the opening of the hospice, which will have 13 new staff over the next two years.”

“The Hospice is part of a broader restructure of Palliative Care Services as outlined in the recently launched Building Healthier Communities 5 year framework.”

“As part of that project we will be examining the adequacy of palliative care services in Central Australia and the rest of the Territory.”

“While there is recognition that a Hospice is the preferred model in the Top End, a different approach may be taken in Central Australia to provide better support to remote and local patients.”

“The NT Government will also look at further support in Indigenous palliative care, and enhancing remote palliative care and inpatient care facilities.”

“Funding has been allocated to develop an NT wide Palliative Care Strategic Plan, and to increase the palliative care skills of our community nurses, Aboriginal health workers and allied health professionals.”

Money will also be provided to non-government agencies for projects to be undertaken in collaboration with NT Palliative Care Services.