19 May 2004

More Beds than Forty Winks

Health in the Territory has never been healthier following the release of figures which show a record number of beds in NT hospitals.

Minister for Health Dr Peter Toyne said bed numbers have been increased or maintained in Northern Territory hospitals since the Martin Government was elected.

“Our hospitals have 52 more beds now than when the Martin Government was elected to roll out its policies to improve the health system,” Dr Toyne said.

“The Territory had just 567 hospital beds in 2001 – less than 3 years later and there are 619 – we have more beds than Forty Winks.”

“This Government is proud of that achievement, but we won't rest on our laurels, more beds are on the way.

“Just this morning I announced 16 new beds at Royal Darwin Hospital as part of the $2.5 million dollar second stage of improvements to Critical Care Services.”

“This follows the announcement of two new birth rooms at Royal Darwin Hospital at a cost of $2.5 million.

The $3.6 million Palliative Care unit at Royal Darwin hospital will also create an additional 12 beds.”

“Alice Springs Hospital will also get 5 new funded beds over the next two years as part of the upgrade to its Intensive Care and High Dependency Units.

“It's not just about more beds but better quality of care.”

“The Martin Government will not only meet its target of 75 nursing positions by the next election – but easily exceed it.”

“48 new nursing positions have been funded for the Northern Territory hospital system – all but two are currently filled”

“The 2004/2005 Budget provides funding for 65 new nursing positions in hospitals through the expansion of Royal Darwin Hospital and Alice Springs Hospital ,” Dr Toyne said.

to the top