Government moves to commission new hospital wing at RDH

The Territory Government says it is proceeding at full pace to commission the new $40 million redevelopment of the Royal Darwin Hospital.

The Minister for Health and Community Services, Jane Aagaard, says construction work is nearing completion with occupation of the new wing to begin on the 30th June.

"The new facilities at Royal Darwin Hospital will be world class and equal to any in Australia."

Mrs Aagaard said a number of projects are yet to be completed including:

- Installation of a back-up generator for the new wing
- Mechanical, electrical, clinical and infection control inspections
- Transfer and installation of new equipment
- Minor building works such as cupboard fit-outs
- Procurement of new trolleys which are expected to arrive in the next 8-10 weeks
- Defects inspections on new equipment and building

Mrs Aagaard said recruitment will now start for additional staff including nurses and a pharmacist.

"The new facilities include a new Emergency Department which will be expanded from 15 to 28 beds with the capacity for a further 10 beds as demand increases."

"For patients and staff it will mean better care and dramatically improved working conditions."

The new hospital wing will be commissioned in stages from 30 June:

- 30 June - Sterilising Department
- 7 July - Operating theatres
- 21 July - Emergency Department
- 4 August - Intensive Care Unit, Coronary Care Unit, High Dependency Unit
- 18 August – Radiology Unit

"Moving into the new wing will involve a great deal of complex co-ordination and the staged process will allow time to ensure everything functions as expected."

Around 40,000 people attend the Emergency Department each year, (20,000 of whom are admitted). Approximately 93% of the value of the work has gone to Territory firms, providing a significant boost to jobs in the local construction industry.
Mrs Aagaard said that an open day was planned for the first week in July so that the community can inspect the new facility.