The Minister for Health and Community Services Jane Aagaard today met with the NT Branch of the AMA and representatives of the General Practice Division and the Top End Division of General Practice to discuss medical indemnity insurance.

Mrs Aagaard said the Territory would follow the position agreed at the meeting of Commonwealth, State and Territory Health Ministers in Canberra last month that this was an issue that could only be resolved in conjunction with the Commonwealth.

"I understand the concerns of doctors in the Territory following the collapse of UMP. A national approach and a national resolution to the problem are essential.

"The Territory Government is looking at legislative changes and law reforms that will be consistent with other jurisdictions to ensure uniformity across Australia.

"The reforms would include broadly-based tort law reform and legal system costs and practices, consideration of capping claims and improved clinical risk management."

Mrs Aagaard has today written to Federal Health Minister Kay Patterson outlining the concerns of the Territory and urging them to deliver certainty to medical practitioners covered by UMP as soon as possible.

"Doctors are concerned that the Commonwealth’s commitment to doctors insured by UMP runs out on the 30 June. They need answers on what the Commonwealth intends to do to assist them," Mrs Aagaard said.

She said she was pleased with the outcome of the meeting and would be working with the medical profession to ensure the best outcomes for the Territory.