Health and Community Services Minister, Jane Aagaard, has welcomed the Federal Government’s decision to provide $1 million in funding for a trial national health information network in Katherine.

Mrs Aagaard said the trial – Healthconnect - will begin in September this year and will focus on indigenous health issues affecting a mobile population in a remote area.

‘This is another significant commitment by the Territory Government to improve indigenous health across the Territory.’

‘Healthconnect is an important joint Commonwealth, State and Territory initiative which will involve two years of research, development and evaluation.’

‘The electronic health information system will improve the flow of information across the health sector by allowing patient data to be collected in an electronic form.’

Mrs Aagaard said particular attention has been paid to privacy matters.

‘The Territory Government has developed an individual consent model for the Katherine trial.’

‘All records will be held in a secure encrypted form.’

Mrs Aagaard congratulated Federal Minister for Health and Aging, Senator Kay Patterson, who announced the Federal Government’s support for Healthconnect, for her shared commitment in improving indigenous health.