Minister for Health and Community Services Jane Aagaard today launched a unique health alliance in Alice Springs aimed at improving services for people suffering from chronic disease in the Northern Territory.

The Good Health Alliance NT comprises Territory representatives from Diabetes Australia, the National Heart Foundation, the Asthma Foundation, Arthritis and Osteoporosis NT, and the Australian Kidney Foundation.

"The Good Health Alliance brings a formalised ‘whole of community’ approach to addressing chronic diseases in the Northern Territory," Mrs Aagaard said.

"The Alliance aims to reduce the number of people affected by chronic disease, and as a group shares concerns about the level of chronic diseases in the community, their common risk factors, and the similarities in approach needed to reduce their impact."

Mrs Aagaard said the NT Government is committed to addressing chronic diseases in the community, and welcomed the contribution of non-Government organisations.

"Combining our efforts, sharing our view points, and exploring new approaches makes for a stronger approach overall," Mrs Aagaard said.

"The Alliance will also provide Government with a central point of contact and can enhance the dissemination of health messages to the public to make them consistent and reliable.

"I encourage other organisations with shared goals to become involved in the Alliance."

Mrs Aagaard said one of the first tasks of the Alliance will be to map out chronic disease resources and services that are currently in place in the non-Government sector.

"I am confident that the Alliance will bring a great range of benefits to the area of chronic disease – and I have no doubt that it will serve as a useful foundation point for discussion and planning purposes."