A new service has been launched in Alice Springs to provide prevention, education, care and support services for HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.

Minister for Health Dr Peter Toyne opened the centre to be run by the NT Aids and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC) in Railway Terrace.

The range of services to be offered aim to reduce the transmission of Blood Borne Viruses include:

- Community education and training (at risk groups, youth, workplace, service providers, health professionals and individuals).
- Support and advocacy services for people who are living with HIV and/or Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).
- Needle and Syringe Program (distribution of injecting equipment, safe disposal, safer injecting and harm reduction information, peer education and appropriate referral).

NTAHC will extend its influence and limited service provision to Tennant Creek in the North and Yulara in the South.

It will work closely with Government and non-Government Agencies (AIDS/STD Program, Clinic 34, Relationships Australia, Family Planning, Department of Corrections, youth organisations, schools, backpacker services, alcohol and other drug organisations, Congress, Alice Springs Town Council).

Alice Springs will get a range of programs that are primarily aimed at preventing transmission of blood borne viruses and associated harms.

These information and education services will target specific "at risk" populations as well as the general community.

Support services will be available to people who are HIV and/or HCV positive to enable them to better manage their lives.