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Aeromedical service in Tennant Creek and private hospital wing Alice Springs Hospital

The aeromedical service currently based in Tennant Creek will be retained by the Territory Government, in line with recommendations contained in a report on the review of the Department of Health and Community Services.

The Minister for Health and Community Services, Jane Aagaard, released the report today.

Mrs Aagaard said the Tennant Creek based aircraft will be retained and used to provide transportation for air evacuation and District Medical Officer outreach services to the Barkly."

" The Tennant Creek aircraft will undergo some minor fit-out work to provide a more appropriate in-flight service for patients."

" A significant recommendation of the review is the establishment of a single point aeromedical evacuation service coordination."

Mrs Aagaard said the coordinator will be responsible for determining the most appropriate transportation option in the Barkly Region and other parts of the Territory, taking into account all the facilities that are available.

Mrs Aagaard said another recommendation accepted by the Government was that the private wing at the Alice Springs Hospital be used for clinical consulting rooms and clinical offices with the creation of a step down facility in the vacated ward 4 area.

" The establishment of a 15 bed private hospital is not viable without a contribution of at least $1.5 million by the Territory Government."

" No private providers are interested and our priority is ensuring the Alice Springs Hospital is well supported."

Mrs Aagaard said the Government did not believe it appropriate to spend public money on a commercial private hospital.