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NEW INTERNS FOR ALICE SPRINGS HOSPITAL

Alice Springs Hospital has consolidated its status as a highly regarded training facility with eight new doctor interns starting work this week.

The doctors, who hail from around Australia, recently completed their medical courses and now have begun a one-year internship at the Alice Springs Hospital.

At the completion of the intern year the doctors earn full registration to practice medicine in Australia.

“The Alice Springs Hospital is a recognised a training hospital and houses the highly regarded NT Clinical School of the Flinders University,” Health Minister Peter Toyne said.

“The intern intake reaffirms the standing of the Alice Springs Hospital as a training facility as well as adding flexibility to the medical team there.”

While undertaking their intern year at the Alice Springs Hospital, the new doctors will rotate throughout the Hospital working in various Departments and will also participate in a range of training and information sessions aimed to further enhance their professional development.

Registrars and resident medical officers will commence work over the coming weeks at the Alice Springs Hospital.

Dr Paula Kitto, who has just completed her internship at ASH and is the Northern Territory representative on the AMA Council of Doctors in Training as well as the junior doctor's representative at ASH, enjoyed her internship so much she's staying on at the hospital for another year.

"One of the things I enjoyed most about my internship at Alice Springs Hospital was the realisation that I could actually make a difference," Dr Kitto said.

"I wasn't just an extra, I was part of a team, and I was very fortunate to get a broad range of experience that I probably wouldn't have gotten anywhere else.

"The work is great - there's heaps to learn - and socially it's a really good place to be too.

"I'm excited for the new interns - I'm sure they'll have a very rewarding year, and at the end of it, like me, they'll want to come back for more."
ASH will become even more attractive for interns with the $11 million upgrade of the Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit/High Dependency Unit.

$228,000 worth of equipment has already been installed, including five new electric beds, a bipap machine which assists with ventilation, blood infusion warmer, syringe driver, a difficult intubation trolley, and a ventilator.

The upgrade of the ICU/HDU is complemented by the announcement of two new anaesthetists for the hospital.

Dr Rod Mitchell takes up his appointment later this month and another anaesthetist will start next month.

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