There is an urgent need for all levels of government to be looking for new and better ways to deliver health services in remote areas, Health and Community Services Minister Jane Aagaard said today.

Opening the World Organisation of National Colleges and Academies satellite conference in Alice Springs, Mrs Aagaard said this was crucial to ensure on-going support for those working out bush and to engage more indigenous people in health care.

She told delegates that like many places in Australia and internationally, the delivery of remote health services in the Northern Territory was extremely difficult because of such things as attracting practitioners, the complications of distance and isolation, the lack of infrastructure and the very nature of the work.

"This is compounded by significant cultural differences and the poor health status in many Aboriginal communities," Mrs Aagaard said,

"But many exciting programs exist in the Territory that are aimed at increasing community involvement in addressing health needs by helping indigenous people take more and more control of the kind of health services to be delivered and how they will be delivered.

"These of course are only another step in trying to deal with one of the most challenging and urgent problems facing this country.

"There can be no rest in searching for ways to improve the health status people in remote communities."

The theme of the conference is "Working Together, Sharing Experiences" with a focus on sharing information and experiences about delivering health services in remote settings and addressing matters of indigenous health.

Mrs Aagaard said she was confident the conference would provide new insights and raise challenges for people involved in the sector, and would eventually result in improved services being delivered in remote communities.