TOYNE CHAIRS HEALTH TALKS

Two areas of health vital to health in the Northern Territory will be at the top of the agenda when Health Ministers from Australia’s States and Territories and New Zealand meet in Sydney on Friday.

Northern Territory Minister for Health Dr Peter Toyne will use his position as chair of the Australian Health Ministers’ Conference (AHMC) to push for national support to address health issues in the NT.

Dr Toyne will deliver two papers at the conference – Child Health and Wellbeing and Remote Area Renal Services for Indigenous Australians.

Child Health and Wellbeing will outline what needs to be done to give kids a good start in life, which is also a key part of Building Healthier Communities – the NT Government’s framework to provide the best possible health care for all Territorians.

It comes just months after the launch of the NT Government’s new maternity services package.

The initiative builds on the Government’s $2.2 million per annum Child Health Initiative, consolidates the community midwifery program and opens the door for independent midwives to practise in the Territory.

Remote Area Renal Services for Indigenous Australians is up for discussion and endorsement by Health Ministers.

The report builds on the expertise and experience of Northern Territory health professionals.

It reinforces the work being done in the Northern Territory to rollout renal services which has included:

- opening of a self-care renal dialysis training centre in Alice Springs with the support of the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaru Tjutake.
- Support for the Western Desert Dialysis Service, providing dialysis services and reverse respite to people of the Western desert of Central Australia
- opening of renal ward in Alice Springs Hospital
• opening of a dialysis unit at Palmerston
• the construction of a renal unit at Tennant Creek
• $610,000 towards the self-treatment dialysis facility in Kintore and,
• the establishment of dialysis on Groote and Elcho Islands;

Minister Toyne’s position as chair of AHMC provides the perfect platform for Northern Territory health issues to be given greater prominence on the national stage.

The conference will also consider measures to tackle childhood obesity and dementia.

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