Clinical leadership of the Territory’s five hospitals has been streamlined with the announcement of the NT Medical Administration network today.

Health Minister Peter Toyne said the Network, to be chaired by Royal Darwin Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Len Notaras, will create a Bureau-style service that will support the needs of all five hospitals while ensuring clinical leadership remains hospital-based.

“The Network will replace the current system where each Territory hospital employs its own Medical Superintendent or similar position and has its own medical administration,” Dr Toyne said.

“Based at the RDH, the Network will be responsible for the overall recruitment of the Territory’s hospital medical workforce.

“One of the Network’s first tasks will be to recruit a suitable person to the position of director of clinical and medical services at Alice Springs Hospital.

“Now the position has become vacant, filling it with a suitably qualified person is a matter of the highest priority. The position is an integral part of not only Alice Springs Hospital but also the Territory health system.

“A comprehensive national and Territory-wide recruitment campaign has begun to attract a suitable person to the position who can not only contribute to the management of the hospital but to the Territory's acute care system as a whole,” Dr Toyne said.

The Network will be implemented in stages after consultation within each hospital.

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