9 November 2004
ICU upgrade at Alice Springs Hospital

Dr Peter Toyne MLA
Minister for Health
Minister for Central Australia

A major milestone will be achieved at Alice Springs Hospital today with the upgrade of the Intensive Care Unit/High Dependency Unit.

Minister for Health Dr Peter Toyne unveiled the $228,000 worth of equipment at the ICU-HDU today.

The upgrade includes five new electric beds, a bipap machine which assists with ventilation, blood infusion warmer, syringe driver, a difficult intubation trolley, and a ventilator is on the way.

Dr Toyne said the new equipment is part of an $11 million upgrade over the next four years to improve the Intensive Care Unit / High Dependency Unit.

“The 5 new beds means the hospital now has 4 ICU and 4 HDU beds,” Dr Toyne said.

“The hospital has received an additional $2 million this year, and will get $3 million annually for the next three years,” Dr Toyne said.

“This will provide the funds to employ an additional 37 health professionals in the hospital, mostly nurses.”

The upgraded ICU/HDU coincided with the announcement of two new anaesthetists for the hospital.

“The appointment of a Head of Anaesthetics at Alice Springs Hospital is the latest appointment and will be the fourth consultant recruited to this crucial area.”

“Dr Mitchell takes up his appointment in January 2005 along with another anaesthetist Michael Thumm to complement the two anaesthetists already working in the hospital.”

“The appointment of Dr Rod Mitchell to this position
will provide the needed leadership in this crucial area to enable the hospital to meet its emergency service and address elective surgery.”

“There are still challenges at Alice Springs Hospital and we are addressing them as a matter of urgency to provide the best possible service for the people of Central Australia,” Dr Toyne said.