The Centre for Remote Health will get a new lecture theatre and administration complex following a $495,000 grant.

Minister for Health Dr Peter Toyne handed over a cheque for the special-purpose capital grant in Alice Springs today.

The Commonwealth Government will contribute a similar amount to get the project off the ground.

Dr Toyne said the Centre for Remote Health is nationally-recognised for bringing a tertiary education and research presence to health in Central Australia.

“The centre’s activities improve health outcomes through better-prepared remote health practitioners and improved health services,” Dr Toyne said.

“The precinct is an important initiative towards the development and support of remote health services in Central Australia.”

“The preparation and continuing development of remote health staff is an important component of valuing and supporting our workforce, one of the key priorities of the Building Healthier Communities strategy,” he said.

The improved financial performance of the Department of Health and Community Services has enabled these funds to be made available to enhance the health of Territorians.

The improvements are part of a comprehensive strategy to improve health in remote communities.

Regional Health Plans have been launched for the Central Australia, East Arnhem and the Katherine regions under the Building Healthier Communities Framework.

These plans were formulated with extensive community consultation, and will form our contract with the residents of those areas.

In the budget $1.4 million has been allocated to begin phasing out single nurse posts.

We are backing up this commitment with a number of grants to further strengthen and support services to remote areas.

The grants include:

- $495,000 for the Centre for Remote Health to construct a new lecture theatre and office accommodation
- $100,000 for the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT (AMSANT) to conduct an Aboriginal Health Summit.
- $80,000 for the Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia (CRANA) to provide remote maternal care and remote emergency care training.
- $50,000 to the Titjikala Council to support the new staff at the community and improve Patient Transport to Alice Springs Hospital.