January 12 2006

**Eight new doctor interns start work at Alice Springs Hospital**

Eight new doctor interns have started their careers at the Alice Springs Hospital this week – strengthening the Hospital’s status as a highly regarded training facility.

Health Minister Dr Peter Toyne said the interns underwent a week of intensive orientation at the hospital before starting supervised work on the wards this week.

Dr Toyne said the new staff members were a great boost for the hospital and good news for the Central Australian community.

“This shows the recruitment effort is working and we’re building better health services in Central Australia,” Dr Toyne said.

He said the junior doctors would work primarily in the Medicine, Surgery, Emergency and Paediatrics departments. “They will also take part in training and information sessions at the hospital throughout the year,” Dr Toyne said.

At the end of their intern year the doctors, who have recently completed their medical studies, will become fully registered to practice medicine.

Dr Toyne said most of this year’s doctor interns had studied at the University of Melbourne with one from the University of Newcastle, one from Adelaide University and one from Flinders University.

“They come from diverse backgrounds and add to the hospital’s medical team,” he said. “We find interns generally enjoy their year in Central Australia. They get more personal practice and a broader experience than some of their colleagues in the bigger city hospitals.

“And some of the interns tend to stay on for two to three years after their internship which is a positive for the hospital.”

Dr Hannah Magree, 24, completed her studies at the University of Melbourne. She said she chose Alice Springs Hospital to do her internship because she was keen to pursue rural medicine and loved the desert landscape.

Dr Krishna James, 24, an international student from Malaysia, also completed his studies in Melbourne. “I heard the hospital had a good reputation, and Alice Springs had a dynamic community,” he said. “This has always been a part of Australia I’ve wanted to see.”

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