RDH Donates Equipment to East Timor

The Territory Health Minister Peter Toyne today donated decommissioned hospital beds, furniture and medical equipment to East Timor.

Dr Toyne said the 42 beds, examination couches, bedside tables, crutches and IV stands will leave Darwin for the East Timor capital Dili next week.

“A delegation of health officials from East Timor visited Darwin late last year and identified a real need for medical equipment for Dili National Hospital and some provincial hospitals that are being rebuilt or refurbished,” he said.

“Donor funding had been found for much of the required furniture and equipment but no funding had been available for beds.

“The decommissioned beds were in storage as RDH has been progressively replacing its manually controlled beds with electrical ones.

“As the beds are sturdy but surplus to requirements, I am more than happy to donate them and any other decommissioned equipment to the people of East Timor.”

The president of the Portuguese East Timorese Club in Darwin Gloria De Castro Hall accepted the beds and medical equipment on behalf of the East Timor Health Minister Rui Maria de Araujo.

Mrs Hall relayed a message from the Minister in which he stated the equipment would increase capacity for health care services and “provide better resources of care particularly for mothers and children affected by the most common diseases and conditions, causing high morbidity and mortality”.

Dr Toyne said the donation further strengthened ties between the countries.

“East Timor is one of our nearest neighbours and I’m looking forward to continuing to build on our regional links through other initiatives,” Dr Toyne said.

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