ATTRACTING NURSES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Northern Territory Government’s nurse and midwife recruitment campaign is about to go overseas.

The $250,000 campaign was unveiled earlier this year with an initial focus on local and national recruitment.

The Department has already received 686 inquiries from nurses and midwives around Australia, with 99 nurses and midwives nominating Alice Springs Hospital as their preferred place of employment.

Health Minister Dr Peter Toyne said the early results of the campaign are encouraging and he’s looking forward to seeing the focus widen to overseas nurses and midwives.

“This Government has already attracted 100 new nurses to the Territory and we’ve promised 75 more in our second term,” Dr Toyne said.

“Recruitment to the Territory, and Alice Springs Hospital in particular, remains a priority.

“Every effort is being made to source nurses and midwives from within Australia it is increasingly evident the available pool is insufficient to meet our needs.

“So we’re launching a major push to recruit nurses from London, Manchester, Edinburgh and Dublin.

“Two Territory nurses and an international recruitment agency Geneva International will begin interviewing 200 nurses from these major centres toward the end of the year.

“Their efforts will focus on the clinical diversity found in the Territory and the opportunities this provides for career fast-tracking; the range of hospital, remote, community and specialist nursing opportunities currently available; working with Indigenous people and the fact wages in the Territory are automatically kept between the second- and third-highest in Australia.”

Dr Toyne said the Government is also working on a number of other initiatives to attract and retain nurses and midwives.

“We’re establishing a Graduate School for Health Practice at the Charles Darwin University.

“We’re also working with nurses, the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment and the Australian Nursing Federation to offer greater choice and clearer career paths for nurses and midwives.

“The efforts are all about recruiting quality staff and keeping them.”

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