World Health Day Recognises Professionals

Today is a timely opportunity to recognise the tireless dedication of the Territory's health workers.

The Health Minister Peter Toyne said April 7 has been set down as World Health Day, in which the challenging and often inspiring work carried out by health workers is highlighted.

“This year's theme is Working Together for Health, a particularly relevant message for the Territory,” he said.

“Since the Martin Government was elected, we have overseen an increase of about $200 million or 43 per cent in the health budget, which means there’s more of everything for health workers in our system.

“For example, today we have more than 100 extra nurses, more doctors, a record number of hospital beds, an expanded Hospital in the Home service, a fully equipped hospice, a 24-hour seven-day-a-week Health Call Centre, a whole child and maternal health team, an upgraded school dental program, improved renal facilities and more.

“This Government is working to ensure health workers are where they are needed most, in fact, 94 per cent of new health staff have gone to service delivery areas.

“And they now have better wages and conditions – for example, Territory nurses are among the best paid in Australia.

“This Government is also working hard to recruit more health workers and to ‘grow our own’. Initiatives in this area include the forging of a new partnership with Charles Darwin University to create the NT Graduate School of Health Practice.

“But World Health Day is not just about having a better health system, it’s about saying thanks to our health workers.

“They are the backbone of our system, they face unique challenges and they deserve our deepest gratitude.”

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