Aboriginal Health Worker Conference Kicks Off

Aboriginal Health Workers from around the Northern Territory will gather in Darwin over the next two days to discuss how to improve the development and delivery of health care to Aboriginal Territorians.

The Health Minister Peter Toyne officially opened the 2006 Aboriginal Health Workers Conference this morning. The theme of the conference is *Getting It Right – The Role of Aboriginal Health Workers 2010*

Dr Toyne said the conference is an opportunity for Aboriginal health workers to review practices and procedures.

“The conference will look at the recruitment, training, employment and retention of Aboriginal health workers,” he said.

“The conference will also focus on the changing role of Aboriginal health workers, while reflecting on current challenges and those that lie ahead.”

There are almost 300 Aboriginal health workers registered in the Northern Territory.

“These specialist health workers are helping to build a strong, competent, energetic and flexible workforce that delivers effective health and welfare services to Aboriginal communities.

“Aboriginal health workers are an essential part of the Territory health system.”

A range of speakers will be featured during the two-day conference, including health officials, union delegates and education specialists.

Family and Community Services Minister Delia Lawrie and Education and Employment Minister Syd Stirling will also take part.

The *Getting It Right – The Role of Aboriginal Health Workers 2010* conference has been organised by the Department of Health and Community Services in conjunction with the Department of Education, Employment and Training.

The Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union has also been a key partner in bringing the conference to fruition.

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