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ANOTHER AMBULANCE CREW FOR ALICE

Alice Springs will get an extra ambulance crew Minister for Health Peter Toyne announced today.

“This is great news for the people of Alice Springs and a practical example of Government’s commitment to safe, sustainable ambulance services for Territorians”, Minister Toyne said.

The extra crew is part of a $1.8 million a year reform package for road ambulance services in the Territory announced on 6 December 2005.

“This new start is already delivering results”, Dr Toyne said.

“I have been made aware of the pressure on ambulance men and women in Alice, from paramedics themselves but also from Fran Kilgariff in her capacity as local St John Ambulance Board member”, he added.

“The additional staff for Alice Springs was based on clear, well-evidenced advice from the new Strategic and Financial Operations Group we set up to oversee ambulance services.”

“The Group recommended the employment of an extra crew in Alice Springs immediately. We’ve listened and we’re taking action.”

Made up of representatives from Health, Emergency Services, Treasury and St John Ambulance the Group met immediately after the signing before Christmas of a new service agreement between St John and the Department of Health and Community Services, for the period 31 December 2005 to 30 June 2006.

“The new arrangements are already working well and the new agreement will give St John Ambulance time to work with Government to progress the reform program and to really bed down the resources and practical measures that will ensure quality services into the future”, said Ms Kilgariff.

“St John Ambulance has already advertised the positions and I look forward to welcoming the two new members of our team in the near future”, she said

In December 2005 Government considered an expert, independent review on the future of road ambulance services in the Northern Territory. The Government’s $1.8 million reform package from 2005/06 onwards will see more staff and ambulances, and improved capital equipment and clinical management of the service.