The roll-out of life-saving portable defibrillators to remote Central Australian communities has been completed.

Minister for Health Dr Peter Toyne said the hi-tech machines had been delivered to 22 Central Australian communities from as far north as Elliott to the western border at Docker River, and east to Lake Nash.

“The roll-out is part of the NT Government’s push to improve health in remote areas,” Dr Toyne said.

“The NT Government has spent about $450,000 to buy the defibrillators and to train staff to use them.”

“The machines which are used in emergency cardiac and other emergency situations would greatly enhance medical services in the bush.

“Defibrillators are used to provide an electric shock to the heart to restore normal rhythm following a cardiac arrest.

“These new machines are also used to monitor the heart rhythm, record electrocardiographs (ECG), measure oxygen levels in the blood, and take non-invasive blood pressure readings.

“The machines were ideal for use by small medical teams in emergency situations.

“All these functions in one unit make it a lot easier for a small team or a solo responder.

“It allows the medical staff to get on with the job of resuscitating the patient.”

“The machines had been well-received by nurses and health workers in remote clinics,” Dr Toyne said.

The defibrillators are also compatible with emergency air patient transport carriers - the Aerial Medical Services and the Royal Flying Doctor Services.

Contact: Richard O’Leary 0401 119 586