Front-line Health Workers Doing a Great Job

The Health Minister Peter Toyne today visited staff and patients evacuated from the Katherine Hospital ahead of flooding in the town.

Dr Toyne toured a makeshift Emergency Department set up at Katherine High School and visited 60 hospital and 26 aged care patients who were moved to RAAF Base Tindal earlier in the week.

“The doctors, nurses and the patients are in good spirits,” he said.

“It’s at times like these you’re reminded of the level of professionalism and dedication of hospital staff.

“Yet again I have been impressed with their hard work and commitment.”

Dr Toyne flew into Katherine with six nurses from the Royal Darwin Hospital.

“Many of the hospital staff are tired and this will allow them to get some well-earned sleep as well as give them a chance to deal with the fact their own homes were flooded,” he said.

Dr Toyne said eight dialysis patients were flown to Darwin yesterday to continue their treatment, while another eight left this afternoon.

He said initial assessments of the hospital indicated water may not have seeped into the building.

“Once the water has receded we will undertake electrical and equipment checks,” he said.

While in Katherine, Dr Toyne visited welfare workers who were handing out food and clothing and spoke to residents sheltering in the school gym.

“Many people were in shock at losing their homes and possessions but they were equally determined to begin reconstruction.”

Contact Andrea Adlam 0401 119467