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New Trauma Equipment for RDH

The Territory Health Minister Chris Burns today congratulated the Federal Government on providing more than a $1 million in equipment and staff for the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre at Royal Darwin Hospital.

The new equipment includes a $750,000 digital substraction angiography x-ray machine that will identify problems with arteries or veins; guide catheters into blood vessels; and look at the gastrointestinal tract.

The second piece of equipment is a $160,000 image intensifier that ensures broken limbs are aligned correctly; finds foreign objects in the body, such as shrapnel from bombs; and identifies problems with arteries or veins.

Four radiographers have also been hired to work in the hospital as part of the Trauma Centre.

“The arrival of this equipment and extra staff will provide a great boost to the services offered at RDH,” he said.

“Not only will the equipment and radiographers be used in cases where the Trauma Centre is called in to action, but will also benefit Territorians during the day-to-day operations of the hospital.

“The extra radiographers ensure a 24-hour on site radiology service, meaning round-the-clock x-rays and other imaging procedures.

“This will, of course, have the flow-on effect of cutting waiting times in the Emergency Department.”

Funding of $65 million for a National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre was allocated in the 2005 Federal Budget.

RDH was chosen to host the centre following its involvement in the treatment of the victims of both Bali bombings, and the riots in East Timor.

Several key positions have been established at the centre including an anaesthetist, maxiofacial surgeon, trauma surgeon and emergency physician.
The funding is also expected to provide an expanded burns service, the rapid deployment of a skilled and trained medical workforce, enhanced accident and emergency facilities and provision of emergency stocks of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

Contact Andrea Adlam 89014078