Out the Back
YOUR VOICE IN THE TERRITORY

Relief for NT rural health

RURAL health care across the Territory will share in a $10m supercharge.

The “significant” investment was announced in the lead up to Budget 2011 last week.

Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon said better health infrastructure would make it easier for Australians to see and contact a doctor closer to home.

The $13m redevelopment and expansion of Gove District Hospital emergency department has been given a green light.

And $3m has been allocated for similar works at the Tennant Creek Hospital. A further $15.5 million will build culturally appropriate accommodation at Katherine Hospital (12 beds) and Gove Hospital (12 beds).

The funding is part of an investment in health infrastructure and workforce across regional Australia.

Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon said funding was also being directed to improving access to primary health care in remote indigenous communities.

“We are aiming to improve the well being of people living in the Territory, especially indigenous people,” he said.

Almost $80m has been promised to build seven new primary health care clinics at Robinson River, Numbulwar, Elliot, Galiwinku and Nirri, and to upgrade four existing health clinics at Titjikala, Papunya, Maningrida and Docker River.

The Laynhapuy Homeland Association will use a $2m grant to build new health facilities in three East Arnhem communities.

The new facilities will also support training for medical students in remote indigenous settings, Mr Snowdon said.

Roadworks to boost Groote services

Umbakumba Rd has copped a beating in the past – flooding from Cyclone Paul in 2010 ripped this hole through it.

THC tender for a $20 million upgrade to Umbakumba Rd has been awarded to Fulton Hogan Construction in a bid to improve access to health, education and economic opportunities in remote communities on Groote Eyland.

The job will see 45km of gravel road upgraded to a two-lane sealed road.

Work is expected to start mid-May and be completed by early next year.

Cyclones have in the past destroyed sections of the track, cutting residents off from medical help.

Indigenous Development Minister Malaluddirri McCarthy said the road was an important link between Umbakumba, on the east side, and Angurugu, on the west.

Intervention laws slammed as ‘discriminatory’

TERRITORY Intervention laws have been attacked as “discriminatory” by North- ern Land Council chief Kim Hill, after construction workers received a minimum penalty for befouling a sacred site.

The culprits, S&R Builders, built a pit toilet on the site at Numbulwar, used by many tribes to hold ceremonies. But Mr Hill said he was furious at the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority’s failure to have the “inadequate” fine overturned.

The company was billed $500 for desecration but the Supreme Court dismissed the AAPA’s appeal to have the penalty increased.

Mr Hill said the system continued to fail Aboriginal people: “If the law is not challenged it sets a dangerous precedent — in essence anyone coming on to Abor- iginal land for work related to the intervention need not consider the cultural ramifications of their actions.”

Officer named

PASTORAL production in the Barkly region has a new technical officer — former Alice Springs industry professional Jillian Fisher.

Ms Fisher has a “proud history” in commercial cattle management including breeder operations, stud herds, steer depot and live export across the NT and East Kimberley region.

Can you help me NAME MY TACKLE?

The Beer Hunter needs your help to name the new XXXX Gold lure. Fishing glory will be yours when your lure is commercially made and sold nationally in all fishing stores. You will also win a XXXX Gold fishing pack valued at $1500, which includes:

- GOLD Eye-Grabbing cecbox
- XXXX Gold lure
- XXXX Gold Fishing shirt & Hat
- A line of GL2 7/8 oz and Curado 200 E5 reel
- plus three boxes of XXXX Gold

To win you will need to come up with a catchy, unique Territorian lure name. Here’s a tip, consider XXXX Gold.

For full terms and conditions please visit ntnews.com.au/competitions

HOW TO WIN

To Win simply text your name, your lure name and the unique mystery number located on the front or back of the NT News to 197 157 66

(Simat Interactive SMS cost $5 cents incl GST)

Competition closes 15/5/2011 at midday. Competition will be drawn 16/5/2011. For SMS help please call 1300 331 276.

Readers will need to keep the mystery number page for verification purposes. Multiple entries will be accepted, but each entry must use an original lucky number. If the original lucky number cannot be presented for verification, the competition will be redrawn.

*The winners will be contacted by phone.

NAME MY TACKLE!