Health funding rejected

By Katie Weiss

The health sector fears more than $1 million in funding will be wiped after the Northern Territory Government struck down a proposal to invest in dialysis services.

Health Minister Robyn Lambley refused to accept the Federal Government’s funding proposal for dialysis infrastructure at two Aboriginal communities in Central Australia.

The offer was made after the government turned down the Commonwealth’s initial offer of $10 million for patient accommodation in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

The NT Government was not asking for the money but Ms Lambley said it could not afford the costs.

Western Desert Dialysis CEO Sarah Brown said she was concerned the proposed Commonwealth funding would not be offered to the NT Government a third time.

“The opportunity will be lost for the Territory and that’s an opportunity lost for communities and for centres trying to cope with the influx of patients,” she said.

Ms Brown said the centre was not asking for extra funding but have to build another wing in the hospital.

“The Alice Springs dialysis unit is full up, the centre needs to be dialysing somewhere,” Ms Brown said.

He said the amount of savings made by dialysing patients out bush was huge.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon realtime $64m of the funding rejected by the Territory Government to services out bush last week.

He said extra renal care space at Larajamanu and nurse accommodation would be provided if the Territory Government financially supported the proposal.

The NT Government spends $46 million on renal dialysis.

NIMA open

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The NIMA celebrate indigenous music from contemporary and traditional artists.

Since going national in 2011 NIMA has placed itself at the forefront of recognising excellence in indigenous music.

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