While visiting Tennant Creek, Minister Lambley caught up with health providers in the region, including Jukulya Aboriginal Corporation with Dr. Marie Williams, Tennant Creeks acting General Manager Dr. Shirl Goodwin, Jukulya’s CEO Michael Wright, Barrie Shire Council’s Sharon Lake, Barrie Shire President Barb Shaw, Pat Brahman of Jukulya Aboriginal Corporation, Anyinyingi CEO Trevor Sanders and Department of Health’s Jenny Kennedy.

I was pleased to visit Wildcare Alice Springs in September with Minister for Primary Industry Willem Westra van Holthe, Wildcare Alice Springs Aboriginal Corporation, Anyinginyi CEO Trevor Sanders and Department of Health’s Jenny Kennedy.

Wildcare Alice Springs receives Animal Welfare Grant

I was pleased to visit Wildcare Alice Springs in September with Minister for Primary Industry Willem Westra van Holthe to handover a Animal Welfare Fund Grant.

The Animal Welfare Fund supports Northern Territory non-profit organisations that wish to undertake animal welfare projects that have the capacity to improve animal well-being, raise community awareness of responsibilities in regard to animal welfare or help progress good animal management practice.

Wildcare Alice Springs received $47,500 to develop educational and training DVDs and books clients in Central Australia and the Barkly regions. The Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association received $45,000 for the production of educational and training DVDs and books clients in Central Australia and the Barkly regions. The Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association received $45,000 for the production of educational and training DVDs and books clients in Central Australia and the Barkly regions.

The Alice Springs Wig Library is a support group for those who suffer hair loss due to illness or for those with hair loss ailments.

The Wig Library offers a one on one appointment with a volunteer hairdresser. You can choose a wig and learn how to care for it. Hospital and home visits are also available for those who are too ill to travel or are uncomfortable to leave their home.

Fundraising and generous donations have enabled the Wig Library to have a large selection of wigs, turbans and accessories available. They also provide a kit, which includes wig, cap, brush, stand, shampoo and conditioner for the client to use for the duration of their treatment.

The Alice Springs Wig Library is supported by The Drovers Volunteer Service. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this service, please encourage them to call the Alice Springs Wig Library for assistance. Telephone: 8951 7175 or e-mail: boycedefoundation@zemail.com.au.

Baby boom in Darwin but numbers steady in Alice

Royal Darwin Hospital has experienced a baby boom!

Currently there are more than 2000 births at RDH a year, which represents an increase of more than 25% in the last four years. In 2013 there were 2044 births at RDH. As of 30 June this year, there have already been 1076 births.

But at the Alice Springs Hospital numbers have been stable, with about 800-850 babies born per year.

Dear Araluen residents

August and September has been a very busy time in Araluen – with a special focus on our older residents for Seniors Month.

The Seniors’ lunch at the Gillen Club was again a great chance to catch up with you all and have a great time.

I also had the pleasure of joining the Mayor Damien Ryan and seniors for the Mayor’s Morning Tea, where the Council put on a fabulous spread.

As Minister for Disability Services I was also honoured to be part of celebrations with the Bindi team for the launch of their new Australia Post vehicle.

It was also great to take part in the 30th birthday celebration for Araluen Christian College, which has grown to more than 200 students.

I really enjoyed the colourful Look Good Feel Better Wig Library Hats, Heels & High Tea on 3 September, and it was great to see so many ladies there dressed in their finery.

The Desert Festival was again a great success, along with the Henley-on-Todd Regatta.

It was great to attend the thrilling netball grand final day on Saturday 13th September.

My colleagues I hosted a lunch for Seniors and staff at the Gillen Club who put on a great roast lunch and desserts.

I would also like to thank Araluen resident Geoff Purdie who displayed on the big screen wonderful footage of life in Alice Springs in the 1950’s.

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**Bindi welcomes new wheels**

On Saturday 23 August Alice Springs welcomed a new unique member of the community who will be helping to deliver mail to local town camps on behalf of Australia Post.

Affectionately known as Archie, the Toyota Hilux vehicle was despatched from Melbourne and travelled 2,257 kilometres to Alice Springs to improve access to essential services to the town camps in a vehicle that will be recognised throughout the community.

The Bindi team takes enormous pride in their work and are really looking forward to delivering these essential services to the town camps on a weekly basis when mail is sorted and delivered to remote town camps throughout Alice, keeping locals connected and expanding their reach.

**Well done to the Alice Springs Hospital team**

August and September were extremely busy months for the Centre for Disease Control team and the Alice Springs Hospital, with an influx of up to 160 presentations per day at the hospital, representing a total of about 4000 patients in the past month, with many presenting with flu like symptoms.

This has been a challenging winter period at the hospital with all staff stretched to the limit. I visited the hospital on September 15 to thank staff for their hard work in managing the flu outbreak.

All staff have showed great commitment and dedication to patient care during this very busy time and I’d like to thank patients for their patience and understanding.

**Hundreds of daffodils sent across the NT**

About 350 bunches of daffodils were sent to Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek for events to mark Daffodil Day in August.

There was a fundraising stall at the Alice Springs Hospital, with every daffodil and every donation going toward helping those who are affected by cancer.

**Alice Springs paramedics honoured at awards**

I had the honour of announcing the winners of the 2014 NT Paramedic of the Year Awards at a ceremony at Parliament House on 3 September.

Katherine-based paramedic Dean Featherstone took out the top gong, and was chosen from an impressive field of 32 nominations.

Alice Springs based paramedics Andrew Naden and Andrew Everingham were named as the Southern Paramedics of the Year. Alice Springs based paramedic Brodie Rollosson was also awarded the New Practitioner of the Year.

Established by the Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise and now in its 15th year, the awards recognise officers who demonstrate the highest standards in professionalism and compassion, and it is wonderful to hear that nominations were received from members of the public who have been treated by paramedics, as well as their colleagues.

**Getting the Indigenous Health Workforce Back on Track**

Since taking on the Health Portfolio in March 2013, I have visited many remote communities across the NT.

Immediately I noticed that something had changed – that the number of Aboriginal Health Practitioners had fallen dramatically across the NT.

I have been working hard with the Department of Health to address this, and at the National Indigenous Health Summit in Cairns I announced the “Back on Track” plan to boost the number of Aboriginal Health Practitioners by 10% every year across the NT.

We looking at ways to entice people to become Aboriginal Health Workers, as providing employment opportunities is crucial for remote communities.

I believe the NT should be leading the nation on this.

**Chronic disease experts flock to Alice Springs**

I had the pleasure of opening the two-day joint conference of the Chronic Diseases Network and the Australian Health Promotion Association in Alice Springs on 4 September, which attracted more than 300 experts to town.

The conference also included the 2014 Chronic Disease Network Recognition Awards. One of the winners was Aboriginal Health Coordinator David Cox. He was given the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Leadership Award for his tireless work to promote men’s health in remote communities.

Western Desert Ngurrakay Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation was given the Chronic Disease Health Promotion/Program Delivery Award.

The Corporation has developed an innovative approach to the treatment of end stage renal failure for Aboriginal people living in remote areas of Central Australia, by providing the ‘Purple Truck’ mobile dialysis treatment, as well as the ‘Purple House’ support centre in Alice Springs.

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For more information, contact Media Officer Jodi Fawcett on 08 8951 6300.