



Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2009

## **Ambulance Service for Palmerston**

The Northern Territory Government has begun delivering on an election commitment to double the ambulance services for Palmerston and the rural area – six months early.

The service was due to begin in July this year but the Territory Government brought the date forward and a partial service began last Monday with a new ambulance and four paramedics on a 12-hour shift, seven days a week.

During the election, the Chief Minister Paul Henderson committed \$2.55 million from 2009-10 towards a new ambulance and eight paramedics to staff the vehicle 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“Palmerston is our fastest growing region and my Government is committed to delivering new and improved health services to local residents,” Mr Henderson said.

“I’m delighted we are able to deliver the first stage of this important commitment six months earlier than planned to coincide with the opening of the Palmerston Super Clinic’s after-hours urgent-care service.

“The clinic opened three weeks ago and has already been well used with 695 patients presenting during that time.

“Families in Palmerston and the rural area now have peace of mind knowing they have improved access to health services.”

Health Minister Chris Burns said the four paramedics would fill the 1pm to 1am shift, which is a period of high need.

“The extra resources provided by the Territory Government will lead to quicker response times, and help with the workload of Darwin ambulance crews who are sometimes called on to assist with incidents in Palmerston and the rural area.

“The remainder of the Government’s commitment will be delivered in July as originally planned.”

The Northern Territory Government provides funding of \$13.6 million a year to St John Ambulance – the \$2.55 million is additional.

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