Historic MOU Signed With John James Foundation

Territorians will now be given access to a greater range of specialists due to an historic Memorandum of Understanding with the John James Memorial Foundation (JJMF), Health Minister Kon Vatskalis said today.

The John James Foundation is a not-for-profit healthcare charity based in Canberra and providing specialist doctors and nurses to deliver volunteer services in remote and rural areas across Australia.

The Foundation has run a specialist outreach volunteer program in Katherine since May 2008 based on an informal agreement. Today’s signing of the Memorandum of Understanding formalises the process.

“Delivering health services to remote areas – particularly to our remote Indigenous population with high levels of chronic disease – is vital,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“Outreach is designed to improve access to specialist medical services for rural and remote communities. Specialist outreach benefits both the patients and the providers – patients receive better access to health services with less disruption to their lives, and our rural health workforce gets access to increased specialist skill training.”

The John James Foundation specialists have completed over 850 patient consultations and over 230 theatre procedures. The program has increased and maintained the skills of regional, rural and remote health professionals.

“The NT Government appreciates the significant and very generous efforts of the John James Foundation in assisting the Department of Health and Families with remote specialist visits,” Mr Vatskalis said.

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