A major overhaul of the public health system, and the greatest commitment to alcohol rehabilitation the Territory has ever seen, are among the achievements of the Country Liberals Government over the past 12 months.

Health Minister Robyn Lambley today in Parliament highlighted the important gains the Country Liberals have made in health during the first year in government.

“In our first 12 months, we have put in place important initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of all Territorians,” Mrs Lambley said.

Over the past year, some of the Government’s achievements in improving health services have been:

- An additional $4.46m ongoing funding for an extra 400 elective surgeries each year.
- Increasing subsidies under the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme.
- Improving cardiac services in Darwin and Alice Springs – patients no longer need to travel interstate to receive CT coronary angiograms.
- Moving governance to the regions with the creation of two new statutory services, the Top End and Central Australia health and hospital services, and appointing hands-on chairs to head up these new services.
- Committing $100m over three years to address chronic problem drinking in the Territory.
- Assessing and treating 36 people in 52 days of operation of Alcohol Mandatory Treatment.
- Scoping out a site for a new hospital for Palmerston and the rural area, with the finalisation and announcement of the site expected soon.
- Signing up to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, including the Barkly as a launch site from 1 July 2014, to ensure Territorians with a disability and their carers get the best possible care and treatment.

“Over the next 12 months we will continue to see health and hospital services strengthen following extensive consultation with communities and clinicians who are seizing this opportunity to achieve better outcomes for patients,” Mrs Lambley said.

Mrs Lambley said it has been a busy first year laying the foundations to deliver important reforms and programs to ensure the best possible health care for Territorians.

“Only 12 months in and we are getting on with the job of improving health services and delivering health facilities.”

“Only the Country Liberals can be trusted to deliver improved health outcomes for Territorians.”

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