A plan for action for health and community services in the East Arnhem Region has been unveiled at Gove Hospital by Health Minister Dr Peter Toyne.

The East Arnhem plan includes these priority areas for action:

- Improve the retention and recruitment of health and community services staff
- Strengthening relationships between health providers and schools to deliver services
- Improve collaboration and communication links
- Address service gaps with an emphasis on care closer to home
- Improve information management systems.

The launch of the DHCS regional plan follows the release of the Building Healthier Communities framework earlier this year.

The development of this Plan was informed using consultation information from the Department of Health and Community Services staff and East Arnhem stakeholders. It is also harmonious with the broader Departmental divisional and program plans that have been developed to turn the vision and priorities outlined in Building Healthier Communities into hard and fast plans for action.

The East Arnhem Regional Plan essentially outlines the Department’s performance agreement with the Alice Springs regional Community over the next twelve months and beyond.

This is another exciting step in meeting our commitment to ensure all Territorians enjoy long and healthy lives, and that we have health and community services that are responsive, accountable and effective.

The Martin Government have committed an annual operational budget of $15 million to Gove Hospital in the recent budget.

The Territory Government is already on track to exceed its election commitment to create an additional 75 nursing positions in Territory hospitals.

There are already 48 new nursing positions in our hospitals, and the Budget provides additional funding to add another 65 nursing positions across the Northern Territory in 2004-05.