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A Win For Territorians as NT Government Renews Public Health Funding Agreement

The NT Government has secured a $19.8 million five year public health funding agreement with the Commonwealth Government, Health Minister Dr Peter Toyne announced today.

The Public Health Outcome Funding Agreement for 2004-09 was signed late yesterday by Commonwealth Health Minister Tony Abbott and NT Health Minister Dr Peter Toyne.

It will see the Commonwealth contribute $19.8 million over five years for important public health activities in the Northern Territory.

“I am pleased that I have been able to secure this level of funding - this is a huge win for all Territorians,” Dr Toyne said.

“The agreement has followed detailed negotiations between the two Governments – but I am grateful that the Commonwealth has adequately acknowledged the need to address a range of public health services in the NT.”

Public health issues to be funded include HIV/AIDS and related sexually transmissible and blood borne diseases; women's health, including breast cancer and cervical screening; the misuse of licit and illicit drugs with a focus on tobacco and alcohol misuse; and reproductive and sexual health.

Mr Abbott said the two previous Public Health Outcome Funding Agreements had demonstrated the commitment of the Australian and Northern Territory governments to jointly fund and improve public health in the Northern Territory.

"The renewal of the agreement for a further five years demonstrates our continuing commitment to maintain the gains we have made in public health and to work together into the future to address new public health problems as they arise," Mr Abbot said.

Dr Toyne said the funding agreement was vital in terms of addressing the health needs of the Northern Territory’s diverse and widespread population.

“This is a significant issue in the Northern Territory. I am looking forward to continuing the positive discussions with the Commonwealth as we move to further improve the health outlook for Territorians.”