Health Library Opens at Alice Springs Hospital

Central Australian health staff will have even better access to research, education and professional development materials with the opening of the new Alice Springs Health Library.

The Health Minister Peter Toyne officially opened the new Dr Charles Haxton Campbell Library at the Alice Springs Hospital today.

The library holds more than 7500 books, including nearly 2000 targeting indigenous health, and more than 250 print journals.

“This is a very important day for health professionals in the region,” Dr Toyne said.

“The library has the only significant collection of medical and health literature for specialist staff in Central Australia. It plays a vital role in supporting the continuing education, professional development, clinical investigation and health research for health care workers in the region.

“In addition to the books and journals, the library has several computer stations with access to an increasing number of electronic texts, journals and medical databases.

Dr Toyne said Dr Charles Haxton Campbell worked at Alice Springs Hospital from 1975 to 1986 and is credited with recognising the need for a medical library to support staff. Dr Campbell was responsible for the first collection of medical books in Alice Springs.

The library expanded in 1996 with the advent of the Northern Territory Clinical School and again in 1999 with the opening of the Centre for Remote Health. A donation of $100,000 from the NT Clinical School and $44,000 funding from the Northern Territory Government enabled the library to move to its current location.

“We’re thrilled with the new library,” Alice Springs Hospital General Manager Vicki Taylor said.

“Not only is this specialist library important for Alice Springs Hospital staff, the value to organisations such as the Centre for Remote Health, Northern Territory Clinical School and other health professionals in Central Australia is very significant.”

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