NT Secures Oncology Funding

The Health Minister Peter Toyne said the lobbying the Territory Government had undertaken to secure a radiation oncology unit in Darwin seems to have paid off.

He said news that funds would be available in the next Federal Budget for a ROU in Darwin indicated the Commonwealth acknowledged the Territory was unable to set up and run the service alone.

Dr Toyne said a unit would cost $50 million over five years in capital and recurrent costs.

“From the very beginning we’ve said that in order to operate a safe and sustainable unit, we would need a substantial injection of funds from the Federal Government,” he said.

“The Budget leak seems to support our position.”

Dr Toyne said he was anxious to see the particulars of the funding.

“I haven’t received official notification from the Federal Government but following the handing down of the Budget on Tuesday I will be seeking full details of the offer.

“Once I’ve been able to examine the funding proposal, I’ll be in a position to determine if the offer is one that delivers for Territorians.

“The funding must provide a viable unit that extends the high level of service the Territory Government already provides to cancer sufferers. And above all it must be safe and sustainable.”

There are about 250 patients requiring radiotherapy services every year.

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