

## All eyes look to territory potential

THE Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia held its first hearing and undertook inspections in Alice Springs yesterday.

The committee will hold the same meetings territory-wide May 22.

The Northern Territory's trade and strategic potential is based on its significance in the pastoral industry, mining and defence support, in proximity to Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

The Chair of the Committee Mr Warren Entsch said the NT had a lot of potential to attract new residents and boost investment.

"The Northern Territory has a lower population density than any other state or territory but, with its many natural assets and pro-development attitude, it has enormous potential to attract new residents and to expand and grow industries with benefits for all beyond the region," he said.

Some of Alice organisations that took part include Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation, Chamber of Commerce Central Australia, Outback Way Panel Outback Highway, Alice Springs Town Council and CRANA Plus among others.



SP Sonography director Sailesh Prasad at the newly opened radiology practice

Picture: JUSTIN BRIERTY

# Medical ray of hope

**Mluleki Moyo**  
BUSINESS REPORTER

A NEW radiology practice equipped with state-of-the-art machinery started operating in town yesterday.

SP Sonography will ease pressure on patients in Alice who endure waiting periods of three to four weeks.

Business director Sailesh Prasad says the practice saw there was a need for a such a service in Alice.

"We will be offering three-dimensional and 4D baby pictures for expecting mothers, for the first time in Alice Springs," he said.

"We have a top of the range machine, a GE LOGIC E9 XD.

"It's designed to help patients with technically challenging complications.

"There are long waiting periods in Alice and our service will lessen that pressure.

"We are bringing X-ray and OPG, that is radiography services in the next five weeks.

"We also have a team of doctors in Sydney working for

us, if I write a preliminary report here it goes to them instantly, they have a look at it and pictures.

"They then write a final report that comes to doctors here," he said.

The business was commissioned by Health Minister Robyn Lambley at the weekend.

## Lots on their plate at new catering centre

REALITY Bites Catering will this week officially open a Star of Alice Function Centre on Palm Circuit, outside Heavitree Gap.

The event will showcase the range of options available at the venue including function spaces, equipment and catering. Drinks and finger food will be provided at the opening.

Business spokeswoman Lisa Perry said they were excited about the coming of the event as they have always wanted to a place for different functions. "I'm really excited about Star of Alice.

"It's a great space with plenty of options for a variety of functions – from meetings to conferences to parties and weddings, and of course the delicious food and friendly faces that many locals now know and love from Reality Bites Catering.

"The business started in 2005 we have always wanted to find a convenient spot for our customers, we believe we have got a great place now for any kind of function in Alice.

"We are going to hold a cocktail event to showcase the product we have. We employ between five and 10 staff and a number of part time workers depending on the type of function we have.

"The official opening is an invitation only event," she said.

For booking contact Lisa on 0417 861 947

## BUDGET 2014-15

### Securing Our Children's Future

## The Territory Government is easing the cost of child care

Great news for Territory families, with the Territory Government boosting its childcare subsidy by 10% and expanding the scheme so more parents receive the benefit.

Budget 2014 provides nearly \$6 million to increase the subsidy, delivering a saving in childcare costs for families of \$1445 per year for a child under two.

Even more families will enjoy the saving, with the subsidy now assisting with the costs of family day care. This means an additional 1000 Territory children will be eligible.

The increased childcare subsidy keeps even more money in the pockets of hard working Territory parents and is another way the Giles Government is helping the family budget.

The increased subsidy will take effect from 1 July 2014 and will be paid directly to service providers as per current practice.

Easing the cost of child care. Another way the Country Liberals Government is securing our children's future.

