The first students to graduate from the Northern Territory Medical Program are now working as interns at Royal Darwin Hospital and Alice Springs Hospital.

The Northern Territory Government funded program trains locals to become home-grown doctors to practice in the Territory’s unique health landscape.

Minister for Health John Elferink said it is a fantastic outcome that the first eight graduates of the program are now working in the Northern Territory’s public health sector, utilising the skills they have learned throughout their university degree.

“The program aims to create consistency and retention in our workforce, with graduates guaranteed work for two years during their post-graduate period in the Northern Territory,” Mr Elferink said.

“The Northern Territory Government’s partnership with Flinders University to deliver the program reflects the Country Liberals Government’s commitment to create real opportunities for Territorians in our local workforce.

“Seven Northern Territory graduates commenced internships in Royal Darwin Hospital and one in the Alice Springs Hospital.”

Graduate of the Northern Territory Medical Program, Darren Jewell, is a Darwin local and currently on rotation in Isolation Paediatrics at Royal Darwin Hospital.

“The Program has given me the opportunity to study medicine while being able to remain home in the Territory with my family,” Mr Jewell said.

"I believe the program has prepared me well for working in the unique and challenging health environment that is the Northern Territory.”

The seven Northern Territory Medical Program interns are joined at Royal Darwin Hospital by 23 more graduates from various universities around Australia.

One intern from the eight Northern Territory Medical Program graduates is Indigenous and a further two individuals from interstate universities beginning the internship program at Royal Darwin Hospital this year are also Indigenous.
For the first time this year the Northern Territory Government has provided the opportunity for interns from Greenslopes Hospital in Queensland to complete their Surgical or Medical rotation at Royal Darwin Hospital. There will be two new interns rotating each term.

Throughout their internship, interns will receive education and training opportunities in a number of core rotations and specialities. Their one year internships will provide them with opportunities to continue as Junior Doctors at Royal Darwin Hospital.

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