Robyn Lambley  
Minister for Health

**Short term accommodation centre opens at RDH**

13 October 2014

Minister for Health Robyn Lambley said the short term accommodation centre at Royal Darwin Hospital has been helping to reduce the pressure on beds at the hospital.

“Previously known as the medi-hotel, the centre has been treating Territory patients since the end of September,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Since the 29 September, the facility has provided medical services and accommodation for up to 42 people.

“It is wonderful for Territorians that the Royal Darwin Hospital team has been able to open more beds than expected during the first stage of this new facility.

“I congratulate staff for their hard work, and it is planned that the centre will continuously expand the number of beds, with the more to come on line during the first quarter of next year.

“The former Labor Government built the facility but it was never opened and sat vacant for months. Labor had no plan for this facility.

“It is great news for Territorians that they can now be cared for in the centre, and it is another example of how the Territory Government is improving access to health services.

“The centre has so far accommodated a range of Royal Darwin Hospital patients who do not require intensive or significant nursing care for periods of up to 12 weeks.

“This has included patients who have required complex assessments prior to surgery, who normally would have been admitted to hospital.”

Department of Health Chief Executive, Dr Len Notaras, said the purpose built facility would help to support patients from out of town by providing a better option for them than an inpatient bed.

“This centre provides comfortable medical accommodation for our rural and remote patients when they don’t require an inpatient bed but they still need to access prearranged clinical care,” Dr Notaras said.
“A great feature is that this facility provides accommodation for a family member or carer to be onsite to assist in the provision of care, and to provide the all important company and support.

“We have been able to expand our successful Hospital in the Home service thanks to this centre.

“This service gives some patients the ability to receive treatment such as IV antibiotics or regular wound dressings from home, or in this case from short term accommodation, freeing up valuable inpatient beds and providing a comfortable care option.”

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