Just weeks after assisting in the aftermath of Cyclone Lam, six Territorians have this morning left for Vanuatu to assist in the recovery of Tropical Cyclone Pam.

“Cyclone Pam is one of the strongest cyclones to hit the South Pacific and we are proud we can offer Vanuatu this assistance in line with our regional disaster response role,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

The Darwin-based National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre has deployed an Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) to the devastated region.

The team has been deployed for up to 14 days and will provide immediate relief and assistance to local authorities.

The group includes a rapid assessment team of three who will relay important information back to Australia to create a better idea of the level of response required.

Additionally, a four person initial treatment team of two doctors and two nurses will be deployed to the hospital in Port Vila to provide immediate assistance.

One person from the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service has also been deployed as part of the team.

“Just weeks ago the Northern Territory was hit by Tropical Cyclone Lam and experts from various fields came to assist in the recovery efforts in Arnhem Land,” Mr Giles said.

“More than 40 professionals from the Northern Territory Department of Health and the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre provided a helping hand both in the lead up to and aftermath of Cyclone Lam.”
“The good work of the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre has continued in recent weeks with training sessions held across the Territory, ensuring that our regions are well placed to respond in the event of a disaster.”

Minister for Health John Elferink commended the efforts of the passionate individuals who are assisting our Pacific neighbours in a time of need.

“The hours, days and weeks which follow a natural disaster are always the most difficult, so it is important that help is quickly made available for those affected,” Mr Elferink said.

“The members of the team are leaving their families and homes behind to help others, something which is truly to be admired.”

The National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre is on standby, if required, to deploy its full field hospital capability as seen in 2013 in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan which devastated the Philippines.

Media Contact: Danielle Lede 0404 515 414