**RDH gets big benefits from fundraiser**

Royal Darwin Hospital’s burns unit has benefited from the efforts of a Territory fireman’s trans-American ‘Tour of Duty’.

Ben Schmidt was one of 343 firefighters and 60 police and emergency services personnel to take part in a charity run across the USA from Los Angeles to New York, dubbed the “Tour of Duty”.

Mr Schmidt raised more than $4000 during the run which he donated to the Burns Unit to be used for specialist lighting.

The paediatric ward will also benefit from fundraising, with $38,800 donated to the ward through the Woolworths Fresh Food Kids Hospital Appeal.

Royal Darwin Hospital General Manager Liz Stackhouse said the fundraising efforts were a great boost for the hospital.

“Their generosity has given a welcome boost to paediatric and burns services at Royal Darwin Hospital. On behalf of all of our staff and young patients we want to say a heartfelt thank you to Woolworths and Ben Schmidt and everyone who has donated to both fundraising appeals.”

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The $2.5 million machine delivers precision radiation treatment to cancer patients and doubles the Centre’s ability to locally treat patients requiring radiotherapy.

“Since the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre began operating in March this year more than 220 Territorians have been treated,” Health Minister Kon Vatskalis said.

“The majority of our cancer patients can now receive their treatment locally instead of travelling interstate for long periods. This second piece of equipment will increase the Centre’s treatment capacity to around 700 patients per year.

“In addition, having two machines ensures reliable back-up and minimal disruption to the treatment regime in the event of unforeseen circumstances.”

“The state-of-the-art Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre has already been recognised as one of the top radiation oncology facilities in Australia. Cancer affects many people in our community and it is reassuring to know that Territorians can now access some of the best care in Australia, in terms of both radiotherapy and chemotherapy.”

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**Child Health Services Begin at Nylander Street**

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**Fond farewell for long-serving Territory doctor**

One of the Northern Territory’s longest serving doctors, Dr Sadhana Mahajani was honoured for 38 years of service to the health of Territorians at a special reception at Parliament House.

Health Minister Kon Vatskalis thanked Dr Mahajani for four
Nicole Rankin, Acting Manager, Children’s, Youth and Family Health Casuarina with daughter Akira, 2, and the Member for Fannie Bay, Michael Gunner, at the opening of Nylander Street clinic in late December 2010.

The Nylander Street Child Health Clinic is up and running at its new custom-fitted premises at Stuart Park. The clinic’s new home follows a relocation from the Progress Drive, Nightcliff building which was scheduled for redevelopment.

“An extensive search for a suitable facility resulted in the Child Health Clinic’s move to Nylander Street, Stuart Park,” Minister for Health Kon Vatskalis said.

“I am delighted to see this important health clinic open its doors today and want to thank everyone who has been involved in its relocation from Progress Drive.

“This central location is well placed for the increasing number of Darwin City families; it is accessible to public transport and has excellent parking.”

The Nylander Child Health Clinic will provide child development and assessment clinics, immunisations, family health assessments, parenting groups and home visiting programs.

Another home haemodialysis success story in Santa Teresa

After travelling the corrugated dirt road from his home community of Santa Teresa to Alice Springs three times a week for dialysis for many years, patient Desmond Smith, 55 can now stay at home in his community and receive the same treatment.

Over the last three months Mr Smith has been training in home haemodialysis and is now proficient and able to deliver his own dialysis at the renal-ready room at Santa Teresa.

The training means Mr Smith can do away with the thrice-weekly 180-kilometre round trip for treatment.

Mr Smith commenced dialysis in 2002, had a kidney transplant in 2004, then returned to dialysis in 2009.

Together with another self-administering dialysis patient, Mr Smith delivers his own dialysis and ensures the facility is cleaned and stocked.

The home haemodialysis project has been operating for five years in Central Australia with patients in six local communities now able to dialyse without ever leaving their families.

$2.5M boost for Territory cancer care

AWCCC practice manager and chief radiation therapist Giam Kar, shows Health Minister Kon Vatskalis the centre’s new linear accelerator

Cancer treatment in the Northern Territory has reached another
milestone with the commissioning of a second linear accelerator at the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre (AWCCC) on the Royal Darwin Hospital campus.