



Kon Vatskalis
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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NT Government Welcomes RDH Children's Ward Funding

Health Minister Kon Vatskalis has welcomed today's Federal Budget announcement that \$11.9 million will be spent overhauling the Royal Darwin Hospital's Paediatric Ward.

"The Henderson Government prides itself in its mammoth investments into our health system, and this is a welcome additional funding boost into the Territory and into the Royal Darwin Hospital," Mr Vatskalis said.

"Investing in the health of Territorians will always be a priority of the Territory Government, and this additional \$11.9 million to Royal Darwin Hospital's children's ward is a huge win for Top End children and their families."

Mr Vatskalis said the funds will allow for two paediatric wards to be co-located and integrated at Royal Darwin Hospital.

The facility will include 10 acute care beds, six isolation rooms, an oncology area, a schoolroom for children and parents' area.

Mr Vatskalis said the NT Government submission to the Federal Government's Health and Hospital Fund was based on extensive discussions with clinical staff at RDH.

"It will make the facilities more modern, welcoming and comfortable for families and staff to care for sick children.

"The upgrades will also provide the capacity to provide better care for children receiving cancer and burns treatment.

"As the project develops, we will continue engaging with hospital staff to deliver the most suitable facility."

Mr Vatskalis said Royal Darwin Hospital is our premier hospital and under the Henderson Government has seen a record investment in 2012 of \$335 million.

"Terry Mills has clearly outlined the CLP policy to downgrade the RDH into a secondary hospital.

"With the Henderson Government, this record funding into RDH will continue."

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