

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

FUNDING THE TERRITORY'S HEALTH REFORMS

14 May, 2013

The Country Liberals Government is on target to implement the most substantial reform of health service delivery ever in the Territory by the middle of next year.

Health Minister Robyn Lambley said she is working closely with the Department of Health to ensure the transition to the New Service Framework meets the reform objectives of delivering greater local control of health services and improved responsiveness.

Under the reforms, responsibility for the provision of hospital and health services will be transferred from the Department of Health to new authorities located in the Top End and Central Australia.

The Top End Health and Hospital Service will have responsibility for Royal Darwin, Katherine and Gove District hospitals and the Central Australian Health and Hospital Service will have carriage over Alice Springs and Tennant Creek hospitals.

The Health and Hospital Services will enter into Service Delivery Agreements with the Department of Health, which will focus on more traditional policy, system planning and governance roles."

Budget 2013 injects considerable financial support into the new Health and Hospital Services.

The TEHHS will receive \$575 million and the CAHHS \$229 million operational funding in Budget 2013-14.

The Territory Government has budgeted \$1.36 billion to Health in 2013-14 – an increase of more than \$136 million on the Labor Government's last budget and almost \$100 million more than in November's Mini Budget.

"The Service Delivery Agreements will specify the range and volumes of services to be provided by the Health and Hospital Services and the quality and standard of service delivery," Mrs Lambley said.

"The process of selecting members to sit on the Boards charged with providing oversight to the Health and Hospital Services is currently underway.

"Services currently managed by the Department such as Mental Health and Aged Care Services, Primary Health Care, Community Health, Remote Health and Health Development will be transferred to the Hospital and Health Services.

"Legislation underpinning the reform is expected to be in place by early next year."

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