

# PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NT BUDGET 2010-11 SUMMARY

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Public Health Association  
AUSTRALIA

6 May 2010

## NT HEALTH BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

### **Record Health Budget**

Record \$1.16 billion for health & family services.

### **Hospital Services & Infrastructure**

Budget includes a record \$483.6M for hospital resources and facilities across the Territory.

### **Health Workforce**

Includes \$9.5M in recurrent funding, commencing in 2009-10, to fund a new nursing/patient ratio across Territory hospitals, delivering an additional 95 nurses.

### **Oncology Services**

Budget provides an extra \$7.26M (including 26 additional staff) for the new Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre and radiation oncology service.

### **Community Health**

Funding to support mental health patients and vulnerable groups includes:

- \$930,000 to establish a Territory-wide 24 hour Mental Health hotline to improve emergency responses to mental health presentations at emergency departments & community-based health providers (supported by an additional 6 dedicated mental health staff); and
- \$200,000 to establish the statutory Office of the Public Guardian – an independent Public Advocate to make decisions for people under adult guardianship orders & deliver support to community guardians.

### **Pensioner Concession Scheme**

\$1.04M for enhancements to existing Scheme providing subsidies & concessions to seniors, pensioners & carers.

### **Renal Services**

Increased funding includes:

- \$2.8M to expand Katherine renal facility; and
- \$1.7M for enhanced services at Tennant Creek.

### **Cardiac & Dental Services**

Additional funding includes:

- \$430,000 in 2010-11 for cardiac services in line with the 10-year Heart Health Plan; and
- \$750,000 in recurrent funding to reduce dental service waiting lists and improve remote area service delivery.

### **Indigenous Health**

Additional funding includes:

- \$1.5M in continued support for child & maternal health services;
- \$1.2M to continue implementing coordinated patient care for patients with chronic conditions.

### **Family & Community Services**

Additional measures include:

- \$14.7M increased funding for child protection services;
- \$7.9M in continued funding for the joint police & family services Child Abuse Taskforce;
- \$2.3M to expand the operation of secure care facilities in Darwin & Alice Springs for people with complex needs; and
- \$5M for domestic violence programs.

Further detail on the 2010-11 NT Budget can be found at:  
<http://www.budget.nt.gov.au/>