



**Chris Burns**  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

November 23, 2008

## Stage 1 of Palmerston Super Clinic Set for December

An urgent care, overnight GP service will operate in Palmerston from mid-December, the Health Minister Chris Burns announced today.

Stage 1 of the Palmerston Super Clinic will begin on December 15, and will be staffed by doctors employed through the Health Department.

“We have funding built into the Super Clinic project to employ additional doctors to provide this very important service to the people of Palmerston and the rural area,” Dr Burns said.

“This was funding committed during the Federal election. We will not be removing doctors from other important areas of our health system.

“The project has been achieved through the strong support of the Federal Government and the advocacy of the Member for Solomon Damian Hale.

“The people of Palmerston wanted this service and the Territory Government is delivering.”

Damian Hale said he’s pleased the Northern Territory Government has committed \$2 million recurrent funding which will enable this first stage to commence.

“This is a welcome contribution to the Commonwealth’s \$10 million commitment to establish the GP Super Clinic in Palmerston to deliver improved health services to the local community,” he said.

Dr Burns said when it became evident that no tenders were received from private groups to operate the after-hours urgent care clinic, the Health Department developed a plan to provide a service with publicly funded doctors. Talks will continue with private groups to establish a longer-term service.

“The new service will operate from 6pm to 8am seven days a week from the Palmerston Health Precinct. It will be staffed by an onsite GP, nursing or paramedic staff, a security officer, and will have a receptionist from 6pm to 10pm,” Dr Burns said.

“The clinic will be free to those requiring urgent care. So residents might attend the service if it’s after-hours and their child has an earache or they have a cut that needs stitching.

“The after-hours clinic is not for routine GP appointments. People with serious injuries and illness should continue to use the ambulance service and Royal Darwin Hospital.

“The after-hours urgent care clinic is the first step in strengthening health services in the Palmerston and rural region for the future.”

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