



ADAM GILES MLA | **CHIEF MINISTER**

JOHN ELFERINK MLA | **MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

St John Ambulance Station opens in Humpty Doo

9 May 2016

Territorians living in the rural area who need urgent health attention will be better serviced with the opening of the Humpty Doo Ambulance Station today.

Minister for Health John Elferink, along with Chief Minister Adam Giles, inspected the new centre which will allow an expanded ambulance service in the rural area.

“St John currently services the rural area’s 23,000 residents from their Palmerston station,” Minister Elferink said.

“In the last quarter there were 559 ‘000’ call-outs in the rural area.

“By having an ambulance station in Humpty Doo, it drastically cuts down the time rural residents will have to wait for urgent medical treatment.”

Chief Minister Adam Giles welcomed the opening of the new station which comes after the signing of the new \$149 million, five year agreement signed between the Northern Territory Government and St John Ambulance Australia (NT) in February.

“The new agreement is an increase of \$46 million, compared to the previous five-year agreement, allowing St John to employ additional staff and buy new ambulances and equipment,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“It is expected ambulances operating from the new Humpty Doo station will improve call-out times by 10-15 minutes to areas like Humpty Doo, Coolalinga, Virginia and Bee’s Creek compared with the current call-out times from Palmerston.

“There will also be a similar improvement in call-out times for people living towards Jabiru.”

St John CEO, Ross Coburn said: “This is a product of our new contract negotiations that works towards meeting work demand in the rural environment.

“We are very pleased to be able to get additional resources to meet demand and assist with the heavy workload of our staff.

“This has only been achieved through government support with additional resourcing as part of the new five year contract.”

St John will use a fluid deployment model based at Palmerston to staff the new station and will continuously review the transition process.

In addition to an enhanced service for the rural area, St John will also start a new 24/7 patient transport crew in Palmerston.

“The new station is great news for rural Territorians and the hard-working St John staff dedicating their time to the service of the NT,” Minister Elferink said.



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