

NORFOLK ISLAND



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Changes to Hospital fees and charges

The Minister for Community Services, the Hon John Brown MLA, has announced that, following consultation with the Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise Advisory Board, the Norfolk Island Hospital will be increasing all fees and charges except pharmacy charges by approximately 10% on and from 14th February 2007.

Mr Brown said that this increase was necessary to ensure that the hospital could continue to provide services at the true economic cost of the service.

“Health care costs throughout the world continue to increase,” Mr Brown said, “and the costs to the Hospital of providing high standards of services are also rising. Those costs include the payment of medical and nursing staff at appropriate rates in recognition of their dedicated and professional service to the Norfolk Island community”.

Mr Brown said that the fees and charges of the Norfolk Island Hospital compared very favourably with fees and charges in both Australia and New Zealand. For example, the cost to a Norfolk Island resident of accommodation in a shared ward per day in New South Wales was \$464.00, in Queensland \$905.00 and in New Zealand \$997.00. The cost at Norfolk Island Hospital was \$251.70 per day. The charge for a consultation with a doctor of \$40.05 also compared very favourably.

The Minister said that pharmacy charges had not increased, and in fact as a result of the discounts for prompt payment had decreased for many people. The discounts for prompt payment would continue, including a 5% discount for those persons who paid in full monthly on statement.

John Brown
Minister for Community Services

9th February 2007