

Media Release

24 February 2018

Top End House a step closer

TeamHEALTH is a step closer to building a new residential rehabilitation facility in Darwin to support people with mental health concerns and has commenced recruiting for a Property Project Manager to support the development of Top End House.

The Top End House project will include long term, rehabilitation and support services and six transitional housing units in the Malak area to support Territorians with ongoing mental illness. TeamHEALTH CEO Helen Egan said the organisation has been planning to build the residential rehabilitation facility for two years to support 16 participants to make steps towards independent living in a supportive environment.

“We are eager to build this new much-needed facility,” Ms Egan said. “Top End House will be part of the surrounding community, helping participants to achieve their recovery goal of living independently, and will ease the pressure on existing mental health services.”

Currently TeamHEALTH operate the NT’s only long term residential rehabilitation service in Parap, which is an old facility that can only cater for six participants.

TeamHEALTH consulted extensively with the community about the project and received support from a range of key stakeholders including the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion, Northern Territory Government Ministers and departments and a wide range of community services and members across the Top End. Ms Egan said TeamHEALTH had taken into account the feedback from the community in the design and operation of the facility.

“The six transitional units are self-contained and all buildings are in a fenced site to achieve security and privacy for participants and community alike,” she said. “Staff will be on site 24 hours a day seven days a week to support the residents to achieve their individual goals.”

The DCA approved the design of the facility, and said the project served the public interest by providing a purpose-built mental health rehabilitation centre on appropriately zoned land.

Ms Egan said TeamHEALTH has over 30 years’ experience, staying true to their vision that all people lead a full and valued life and work to enable people living with mental illness to live in the community as independently as possible. The Top End House project is expected to generate 24 jobs in the Darwin

economy, with an investment of \$3.9 million, including funding from the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund.

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