



**Kon Vatskalis**  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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## **Home Away From Home For Cancer Patients In Darwin**

Territorians and their families who travel to Darwin to receive cancer treatment at the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre (AWCCC) now have a place they can call home.

Deputy Chief Minister, Delia Lawrie, and Minister for Health, Kon Vatskalis, today opened a new accommodation facility, and announced it will be named after prominent Territory journalist, author and historian, Barbara James.

“During treatment, cancer patients are often required to stay in Darwin for many weeks and Barbara James House will provide them with a home-away-from-home,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“Barbara James was a compassionate woman and a tireless community worker, who came to the Territory in the 1960s working as a journalist, and later an author and historian.

“Mrs James lost her battle with breast cancer in 2003 and this facility honours her passion for the Northern Territory and its people.

“From today patients and their families who travel to Darwin to receive treatment at the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre can access modern accommodation options at this new facility.

“The House also provides a range of recreational facilities including a television room, a games room, internet stations, a number of barbecue courtyard areas and a communal dining room.”

Mr Vatskalis said non-profit organisation, YWCA will manage the day-to-day running of Barbara James House with men and women to be accommodated in separate wings and some family rooms for up to four people also available.

“YWCA will provide additional services, including a kiosk, meals on request and a shuttle bus to the AWCCC at Royal Darwin Hospital,” he said.

Ms Lawrie said the new accommodation facility for cancer patients was a fitting way to honour Barbara James.

“Cancer affects one in five people and while better diagnosis and treatments have improved health outcomes, an important part of recovery is a patient’s comfort, wellbeing and contact with family during treatment,” Ms Lawrie said.

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