



## Dialysis self-care plan stops in Alice Springs

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**The manager of the Western Desert Dialysis project says the Northern Territory Government's plan to teach dialysis patients self-care has fallen flat in central Australia.**

Territory Health Minister Peter Toyne launched the Government's Renal Services Strategy last year.

It included a plan to train patients to use dialysis machines and put more dialysis equipment into communities.

But Sarah Brown says self-care training at the Flynn Drive renal unit in Alice Springs has stopped.

"The strategy talks really strongly about providing dialysis as close to home for people as possible and in the Top End that has happened, some people have got home with their own machines, but in central Australia nothing is happening and more and more people are coming in every month, often critically ill, requiring dialysis," she said.

A spokeswoman for Dr Toyne says no patients who attend Flynn Drive are turned away.

She says patients without an appointment, who require urgent care, are sent to hospital and those who do not are given an appointment at another time.

Dr Toyne says a planned \$1 million upgrade to the Flynn Drive renal unit in Alice Springs will include a self-care training room.

He says self-care is a good strategy and the Territory Government is on track with providing training.

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