



Toyne plays down Alice dialysis short-fall

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The Northern Territory Health Minister says patients in serious need of dialysis treatment are not missing out in Alice Springs.

Western Desert Dialysis assists patients from the Western Desert areas of central Australia.

It says 40 people are regularly turning up for treatment in Alice Springs but there are only 28 chairs available to provide that treatment.

Health Minister Peter Toyne says patients are assessed for their level of need before being accepted for treatment or having their session delayed.

"I can certainly say - and I have been assured by my agency - that there are not high-risk levels of delay due to the pressure on the services," he said.

"Far more prevalent are the patients who choose not to turn up for treatment at the required time."

He says the Territory Government has lifted funding for treatment of end-stage renal failure by \$5 million to \$19 million and committed \$1 million to the expansion of the Flynn Drive renal facility in Alice Springs.

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