



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

**Liberal Senator for Western Australia
Chair of the Senate Economics References Committee**

New Hedland Health hub a welcome service

29/04/2011

At the opening of the new Hedland Health Campus yesterday, West Australian Senator Alan Eggleston looked back with nostalgia on his days as a doctor in the town, remembering a time when medical facilities in regional WA were decidedly more modest.

During his time working as a GP at the Port Hedland Hospital in 1974, Cyclone Joan ripped through the town, destroying the building.

“I was lucky to escape the full brunt of Cyclone Jean because I was sent to care for residents of South Hedland, who had been cut off from health services by flooding,” Senator Eggleston said.

A “temporary hospital” was built soon after and has since provided health services to the town over the intervening 36 years.

Senator Eggleston said the new \$138 million Hedland Health Campus was a welcome addition to the North West, providing a central hub of health services.

“I would like to congratulate all of the dedicated staff and thank The Hon Dr Kim Hames for opening the new hospital,” Senator Eggleston said.

“The medical facilities here are truly first-rate, which is definitely something we need to see more of in the North West and regional areas of our State.”

The new facilities include a 24-hour emergency department, a dedicated surgical, obstetrics and children’s ward, x-ray, ultrasound and CT scanner.

“As the region once again recovers from the effects of cyclones and flooding, it is heartening to know that quality health care and facilities will be easily accessible at Headland Health Campus.”

-Ends-