



MEDIA RELEASE

DEAL helps fund new Arnhem Allied Health Centre

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Developing East Arnhem Limited's (DEAL's) Economic Development Fund has helped Arnhem Physiotherapy Services realise its dreams for the new Arnhem Allied Health Centre, a purpose built one-stop health hub for the East Arnhem community.

DEAL's funding of up to \$195,000 - to be at least matched by Arnhem Physiotherapy Services' own contribution - helped towards the design, internal construction and fit-out of the Arnhem Allied Health Centre.

DEAL Chief Executive Carley Scott said the Arnhem Allied Health Centre was a first for East Arnhem Land bringing with it major opportunities for both healthcare providers and the health of the community.

"This is a fantastic project for DEAL to support and we believe it will make a real difference to people's life throughout the entire East Arnhem Land region," she said.

"The funding provided fits perfectly with DEAL's strategy to support key industries such as the health sector, create more jobs and make East Arnhem a better place to live, work and conduct business."

The purpose built, multidisciplinary Arnhem Allied Health Centre includes eight fully furnished consulting rooms equipped with state-of-the-art IT equipment, computers, phones and printing facilities, which are all linked to centralised, cloud-based patient management software.

The Arnhem Allied Health Centre also enables independent allied health providers to develop their businesses out of the Centre by providing administration and office services and the latest IT and marketing support for health provider tenants to access.

Director of the Arnhem Allied Health Centre Sarah Fincham-Thomson said the DEAL funding provided her the confidence to dream big for this community.

“Access to DEAL funding opened my mind to the opportunity of providing a real solution needed for independent allied health consultants and practitioners to work in a state-of-the-art facility,” she said.

“It allowed me to go much further than I would otherwise have done on my own to provide what’s really required here in East Arnhem, a one stop health hub for residents to receive a whole range of healthcare services that support’s them in living a happy and healthy lifestyle and enjoying life to the full!”.

The centre is already proving popular with allied health practitioners with independent physiotherapy and massage businesses already booking 50 per cent of the available space, and strong interest coming from other allied health professions such as psychology, speech pathology and occupational therapy.

“The Arnhem Allied Health Centre is available to both local and visiting allied health practitioners and consultants and one of our objective’s is that it ultimately attracts specialists from outside the region to permanently relocate here to service East Arnhem Land” Ms Fincham-Thomson said.

Local contractors and service providers were employed to complete the fit out of the centre, with an Industry Participation and Communications Plan developed to help Arnhem Physiotherapy Services and DEAL track local industry engagement throughout the funded project.

“This project showcases what local contractors can do, the quality of their design and workmanship, and what they can deliver in this region,” Ms Fincham-Thomson said.

The timing of the centre also enables East Arnhem residents to take full advantage of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) that has its’ East Arnhem launch in January.

Arnhem Allied Health Centre (AAHC) is conveniently located in Nhulunbuy on the ground floor of 8 Franklyn Street Nhulunbuy adjacent to the Woolworths supermarket car park and plans to open its doors to the public on Monday 24th of October.

<ENDS>

To interview DEAL CEO Carley Scott, please contact Tom Foster (08) 8987 0564.

To interview Arnhem Physiotherapy Services Director Sarah Fincham-Thomson, please contact Sarah on (08) 8987 0296.

About Developing East Arnhem Limited

Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL) was established in November 2014 to support economic development in the region. The organisation was established as an independent company with seed funding provided by the Northern Territory Government (\$2M) and Rio Tinto (\$2M). DEAL is managed by a Board of Directors,

and has a full time Chief Executive Officer, a Project Manager and a part time Business Office Manager. The Many Rivers Field Officer shares the DEAL office, which is located in Nhulunbuy. To find out more about DEAL, visit:

www.developingeastarnhem.com.au

About Arnhem Physiotherapy Services

Based in Nhulunbuy and founded in 2011, Arnhem Physiotherapy Services provides allied health services for the Nhulunbuy community and the surrounding East Arnhem region. To find out more about Arnhem Physiotherapy Services, visit:

www.arnhemphysio.com

About the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is an Australian Government scheme to support a better life for hundreds of thousands of Australians with a significant and permanent disability and their families and carers. To find out more about the NDIS, visit:

www.ndis.gov.au