Menzies to Expand with NT Government Grant

The Territory Government today announced a $5.5 million grant to the Menzies School of Health Research as part of its commitment to building healthier communities for Territorians.

The Minister for Health Chris Burns visited the research facility today on the Royal Darwin Hospital Campus.

"The grant will ensure the expansion of Menzies and improve health services for Territory families," Dr Burns said.

"Menzies is acknowledged as the leading research institute on tropical and Indigenous health in Australia and its international reputation continues to grow.

“The capital grant will enable Menzies to continue its important work, maintain growth in research funding and enlarge the Territory’s research workforce.”

The $5.5 million Northern Territory Government grant is on top of $5 million allocated by the Federal Government in the 2007 budget, ensuring that Menzies will be able to double its present capacity.

Dr Burns said the Northern Territory Government helped to set up Menzies in 1985. Projections have shown the current workforce of 162 is likely to expand to 400 in a decade.

“It is a result of Menzies’ reputation as a centre for scientific excellence that it attracts significant research funding each year. This, of course, means more staff and the requirement for more laboratory and research space,” Dr Burns said.

“The Territory Government is proud to help provide more infrastructure to keep Menzies at the forefront of research into Indigenous and tropical health.

“I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the head of Menzies, Jonathan Carapetis for his leadership in building the status and capacity of the organisation.”

Thanking Dr Burns and the NT Government, Menzies’ Director, Prof Jonathan Carapetis said the extension will be the next step towards helping to ensure a healthier future for thousands of Indigenous Australians.

“The diversity of our research at Menzies has expanded significantly in recent years and this building expansion will allow us to continue to grow our research output as well as allowing us to attract and retain talented researchers within the Territory.”

Work on the extension is expected to begin within 12 months.

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