The Chinese teaching program at Charles Darwin University (CDU) is set for a major boost with the establishment of a Confucius Institute at CDU’s Casuarina campus.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson joined CDU Vice-Chancellor Professor Barney Glover today to sign the agreement that will see the Institute come to Darwin.

“Securing the establishment of a Confucius Institute in Darwin is a landmark step in bilateral relations between China and the Northern Territory,” Mr Henderson said.

“Hosting the Vice President of China in Darwin last year provided the groundwork and goodwill to help secure the establishment of the Institute.”

“The Institute, a partnership between CDU and the Hainan and Anhui Normal Universities in China, will have a focus on teaching Chinese culture and language to people living in remote areas.

“The Northern Territory has always had close cultural and trading ties with China, particularly through our local Chinese community,” Mr Henderson said.
Vice-Chancellor Professor Barney Glover said the demand for Chinese language and cultural studies was widespread throughout the Territory.

“In addition to regular classes on campus, this new institute will enable people living in remote communities and working full-time to have access to online lessons,” Professor Glover said.

The new institute will work closely with the local Chinese community to strengthen their continuing efforts to preserve and pass on their cultural heritage.

Contact: Lidija Ivanovski  0457 933 856