 Territory Parliament recorded a historic moment today with the passage of legislation officially creating the Charles Darwin University.

Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said the university marked a new era for education in the Territory.

"Charles Darwin University brings together three of the Territory’s outstanding institutions – Northern Territory University, Centralian College and Menzies School of Health Research – to form a single, world-class facility with enhanced training, higher education and research capacities," Mr Stirling said.

"For the first time, we have a tertiary facility that offers young Territorians a real alternative to studying interstate.

"It will also help us to attract students, academics and researchers from interstate and overseas and will play a significant role in the economic and social development of the Territory."

Mr Stirling said the legislation passed today also allowed for the establishment of an Institute of Advanced Studies, which will play a major role in enhancing the university’s research capacity.

"Government has committed $1.5 million per year to the Institute, on top of the around $5 million per year commitment it already makes to the university," he said.

"Formalising a relationship between the university and Menzies School of Health Research is also expected to lead to an extra $3 million per annum in Commonwealth research infrastructure grants for Menzies."

Mr Stirling today acknowledged the achievements of Vice-Chancellor Ken McKinnon in overseeing the creation of Charles Darwin University.

"Professor McKinnon has played an invaluable role in making this dream a reality and on behalf of all Territorians I thank him for his contribution.

"We now look forward to the arrival of his successor, Professor Helen Garnett, in October."