The Federal Court has ruled that a Commonwealth minister did not have the power to revoke $10 million granted to an organisation that helps indigenous Territorians battling a rare genetic disorder.

Machado Lymph Disease Foundation chairman Neil Westbury welcomed the landmark decision handed down by Justice Geoffrey Flick on Wednesday.

“The foundation assumes a sustainable source of funding that will give MJD sufferers who have demonstrated against all the odds, a consistent preparedness to truly help themselves,” Mr Westbury said. “It also removes an apparent disjunction between the (Federal) Government’s constant call for less welfare dependence and greater self-reliance.”

Former indigenous affairs minister Jenny Macklin approved a $10 million grant to the foundation – from a pool of money called the Aboriginal Benefit Account – in July 2013.

She stipulated the need for a funding agreement, which the foundation had not received before Labor lost the election.

In December 2013 her ministerial replacement, NT Senator Nigel Scullion, advised the foundation that its funding “application” had been refused because it could set a “dangerous precedent”, stating: “It has been a longstanding policy not to provide recurrent funding from the account. (Despite) the undoubted value of your project, I am of the strong view that providing a cash advance is an unsustainable and indefensible mechanism to work around this existing policy.”

Justice Flick said: “The apparent concern of the new minister was that the $10 million, for which approval had previously been given, was to be invested such that the income from the investment would fund the future work of the foundation.”

The MJD Foundation fought judicial review, arguing that natural justice had been denied and that Senator Scullion didn’t have the power to refuse them the money promised by the previous minister.

It was allowed to make a new funding submission, at which point Senator Scullion tried to revoke the former minister’s direction for payment.

The foundation again took the case to court on the grounds of an absence of power.

The case has been described as a success by police.

“The work was done by the Cross Border Team, made up of officers from NT Police and Queensland Police,” Detective Inspector Amy Verstappen said.

“The club no longer stocked full-strength RTDs.”

Licensing NT recently moved to take enforcement action against a number of alleged breaches of the Liquor Act and conditions of the liquor licence by the Toddy Store and Club Coles.

Director-General Cindy Bravos said she was “curiously considering the licensees’ response to one of the matters before her and is also considering what — if any — actions should be taken in relation to further allegations of breaches of the Liquor Act.”

“On its own initiative, the club no longer sells mid-strength RTDs (ready to drink beverages such as rum and Coke, bourbon and Coke),” Ms Bravos said.

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**Tourism in need of workers**

MORE than 120,000 new workers will be needed in the tourism industry over the next five years.

That includes about 60,000 skilled workers, the Australian Tourism Labour Force report, commissioned by Austrade and produced by Deloitte Access Economics, has found.

The report, released yesterday, estimated there is a shortage of about 38,000 workers now.

Nearly 70 per cent of businesses identified skills deficiencies, with an up to 19 per cent in four years.

“That appears that while the ability for businesses to hire workers has improved, businesses are not finding the skills they need to operate and generate productivity and competitiveness of the sector.”

There has also been a reduction in the use of casual workers, making up 10 per cent of the sector nationwide, down from 13 per cent in 2011.

**Great teachers recognised**

Paul van Holsteyn – Bradshaw Primary School; Loretta Brown – Acacia Hill School; Elizabeth Tilmouth – Bradshaw Primary School; Joanne Moor – Alice Springs School of the Air; Senior Secondary Teacher of the Year: Bevian Harding – Centralian Senior College; Early Childhood Teacher of the Year: Loretta Brown – Acacia Hill School; Support Staff Member of the Year: Karen Weir – Bratling Primary School; Indigenous Educator of the Year: Petra Tilmouth; NT Indigenous Educator of the Year: Petra Tilmouth.

THE 2015 Teaching in the Territory Award winners from the Alice Springs region are:

**Primary Teacher of the Year: Elizabeth Verdasten – Ross Park Primary School; Middle Years Teacher of the Year: Joanne Moor – Alice Springs School of the Air; Senior Secondary Teacher of the Year: Bevian Harding – Centralian Senior College; Principal of the Year: Paul van Holsteyn – Bradshaw Primary School; Early Childhood Teacher of the Year: Loretta Brown – Acacia Hill School; Support Staff Member of the Year: Karen Weir – Bratling Primary School; Indigenous Educator of the Year: Petra Tilmouth; NT Indigenous Educator of the Year: Petra Tilmouth.**

**Changes to club’s drinks**

**Drugs and gun bust at border**

**Health service passes muster**

**Funding call reversed**

Ellie Turner

THE一方面认为这是一个可持续的资金来源，这意味着将有更多资金用于治疗MJD（Machado Lymph Disease）的患者，但是同时，它也指出了一个危险的 precedent，即新部长认为这种资金分配方式不符合政府长期以来的政策。因此，新部长拒绝了之前的批准。

“我有强烈的理由认为，**尽管**有利益相关者的参与，我们应当提供资金来资助未来的项目。”

司法官Flick表示：”新部长的明显关心是，这项1000万美元的拨款，虽然之前已经得到了批准，但需要被投资，以便从投资中获得未来的资金。“

这一案件得到了成功的结果，司法官Flick指出，这一案例对其他类似案件有指导意义。

司法官Flick说：”这将是一个长期的政策，不提供再资助的基金。“

“这将是对所有人的一个危险的 precedent，因为它可以设定一个‘危险的 precedent’，因为这将是一个长期的政策，不提供再资助的基金。”

司法官Flick指出，**自然正义**被否决，因为新部长没有权力拒绝他们之前承诺的资金。

该部长允许提交新的资助申请，但新部长否决了之前的方向。

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