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Health Minister applauds Menzies and Charles Darwin University partnership

Minister for Health and Community Services Jane Aagaard today applauded the passing of legislation to formalise links between the Menzies School of Health Research and the Northern Territory University.

The amendments were introduced to Parliament last week by Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling, establishing a close, formal relationship between the school and the university.

"The Menzies School of Health Research is one of the jewels of the Northern Territory, and has an outstanding record of excellence in both research and education," Mrs Aagaard said.

"These close new links will benefit both institutes tremendously, but I am particularly pleased that the arrangements will mean a likely increase by about $3 million a year in Commonwealth funding to Menzies."

"Menzies research staff are leaders in tropical and indigenous health research, and these new arrangements will certainly ensure due credit and recognition for the staff in the Australian university sector."

Mrs Aagaard said the Charles Darwin University would also benefit from closer links to the research school by building on Menzies’ reputation for excellence in health research and education.

"The NT Government shares the Menzies School of Health Research vision of better health outcomes for Indigenous Territorians, and will continue to strongly support the school."

Mrs Aagaard said while the partnership will bring enormous benefits to both institutes, she reinforced the significance of Menzies School of Health Research maintaining its autonomy and independence.

"And the new legislation will certainly ensure this," she said.

The NT Government this year contributed $3.1 million and further in-kind support to Menzies School of Health Research through collaboration across a variety of research projects.