



NT health champion honoured

SHADOW Indigenous Affairs Minister Senator Nigel Scullion has paid tribute to Dr Sue Sayers, who has been named as the recipient of the highest award offered by the Darwin-based Menzies School of Health Research, the Menzies Medallion.

“This award is well deserved by Dr Sayers, a long-serving Darwin paediatrician who has done groundbreaking work in indigenous health research,” Senator Scullion said. “Dr Sayers created the world’s largest and longest study of indigenous health the Aboriginal Birth Cohort study beginning in 1987 with 686 babies.

“She has been charting their health for 25 years and tested the group at age 11 and again in their late teens.

“Her research has greatly increased the understanding of the longterm effects of low birth weights in Aboriginal communities and will have a lasting impression in Aboriginal health.

“Dr Sayers, who was a Territory finalist in the Senior Australian of the Year this year, has worked as a paediatrician at the Royal Darwin Hospital since 1981.

“Her research has made a very significant contribution to improving the wellbeing of Aboriginal people,” Senator Scullion said.