

Brains trust born

JASON WALLS

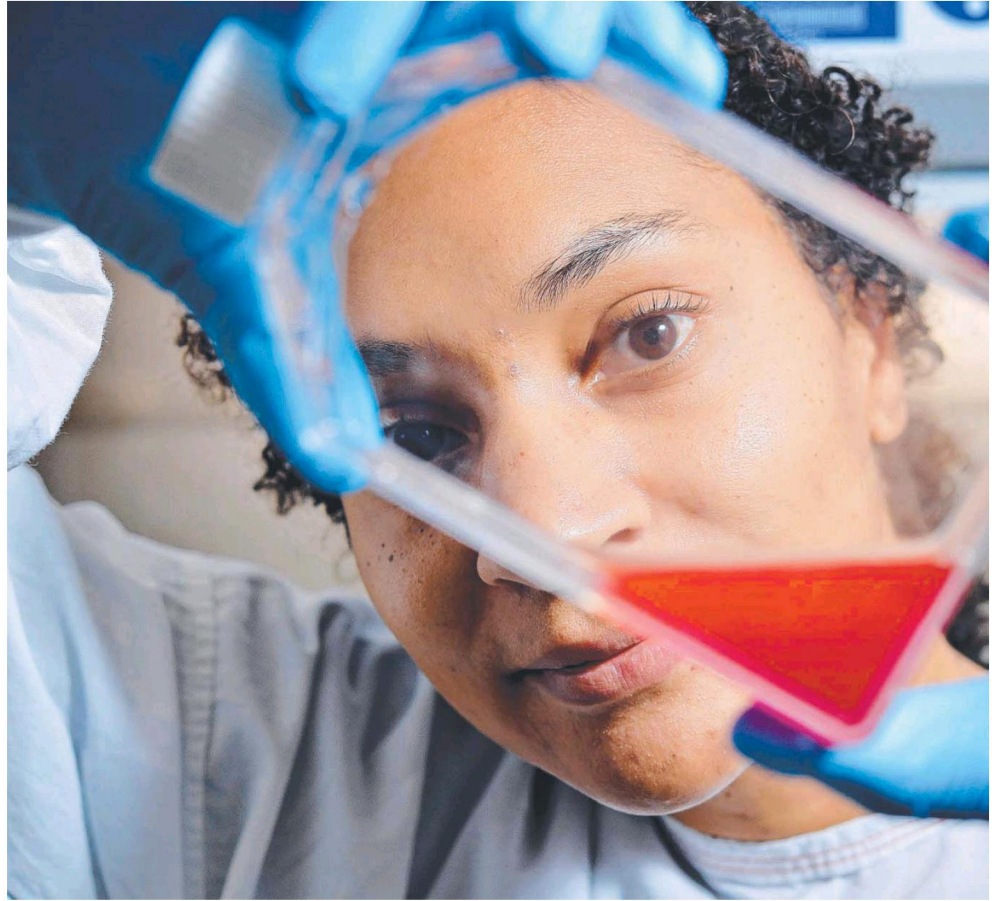
RESEARCHERS at Darwin's Menzies School of Public Health will play a key role in a new push to fight the scourge of malaria in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ric Price, Nick Anstey and Sarah Auburn will join the team at a new Centre for Research Excellence in Malaria Elimination, announced by federal Health Minister Greg Hunt on Wednesday.

The \$2.5 million centre will be based at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity in Melbourne with the MSPH researchers providing input from their base in Darwin and study sites throughout the Asia-Pacific.

Dr Auburn said the local team would bring surveillance skills to the project, including using genetic information to track the spread of infections and identify malaria hot spots.

"On the molecular side, we've done a lot of work on mapping drug resistance in the parasites," she said.



Menzies senior research officer Dr Sarah Auburn with a malaria specimen in the laboratory