



Funding will give tropical medicine lift

NORTH Queensland could be a “global leader” in tropical medicine as part of a multimillion-dollar research plan.

Researchers, including James Cook University, will share \$6 million in federal funding allocated to the “Hot North” program designed to tackle critical health issues across Northern Australia.

Northern Australia Minister Matt Canavan said the program would be led by the Menzies School of Health Research and would build the region’s research capacity.

“This research is identifying emerging medical threats within the region and building local capacity to address them,” Senator Canavan said.

“These issues include vector-borne and emerging infectious disease, particular malaria and skin health, chronic disease, antimicrobial resistance and respiratory health.”

Senator Canavan said the funding would help build Australia’s reputation as a “global leader in tropical medicine”.

“(It will) create a thriving community of researchers in the North who will make a real difference to the health of Australians and our regional neighbours,” he said.

The Government allocated \$1.5 million a year until 2020 for the Hot North program.