

Tropical-health school opened

DARWIN: Research conducted at a school opened in Darwin on Saturday is expected to contribute to an improvement in the health of millions of people and animals in tropical and central Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

The Menzies School of Health Research, the first step toward the establishment of a Northern Territory university, was officially opened by the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen.

Sir Ninian said there had been a realisation that special difficulties, perhaps even special hazards to human health, existed in the tropics.

Many of these hazards had been combated with success, he said.

Other hazards, such as malaria and dengue fever, still called for much attention, even though the medical world had long been familiar with them.

"Then we have all the other health consequences of life and work in the tropics which still await full identification and analysis," he said.

"So it is the fruits of the research to be carried out here in this school will benefit not only all of those in northern Australia, but as well, peoples around the world, especially those living in similar climates and exposed to similar threats to health.

"This includes the populations of many Third World countries, many of which lack the resources to undertake comparable research of their own.

"This must surely be one of the ways in which Darwin, in particular, and the Territory as a whole will, in the future, contribute much to our relationships with those areas to our north."

The school, funded by the Northern Territory Government and the Sir Robert Menzies Foundation at a cost of \$1 million a year for the next four years, is located at Royal Darwin Hospital.

It was formally founded in Jan-

pital.

It was formally founded in January last year, following the unanimous agreement of delegates at a Darwin seminar attended by representatives of the Menzies Foundation, Australian universities, and health, union and employer organisations.

They recognised a need to stimulate health research in the tropics and recommended the creation of a school of health research.

A select steering committee, working under Sir William Refshauge, drew up the proposal for its establishment.

An eight-member governing board, chaired by Sir William, was appointed and has established the role and objectives of the school.

To fulfil those objectives, the school has formed an academic link with the University of Sydney.

The Royal Darwin and Alice Springs Hospitals have become teaching hospitals of the university.