



# Facility secures key role for city in health research

ON FRIDAY, October 7, I was delighted to attend the official opening of the new Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine facility at James Cook University in Townsville. This is a fantastic asset to JCU, to Townsville and North Queensland.

Facilities are also being constructed in Cairns and in the Torres Strait, making the AITHM well positioned to make a great contribution to research and innovation in the area of public health and medicine in the tropics and I'm certain that it will do just that.

I would like to acknowledge the former Abbott LNP government that contributed \$42 million to this project in August 2013 and note the key role North Queensland based LNP Senator Ian Macdonald made in securing that funding and supporting the AITHM.

This contribution matched the \$42 million commitment that the former LNP government in Queensland had already made in December, 2012.

That significant initial announcement secured the future of the AITHM project for North Queensland. As a North Queensland based minister in the former state LNP government, I

was very pleased and proud to see the results of our investment providing a base for cutting edge scientific and health research.

**ANDREW CRIPPS,**  
Member for Hinchinbrook.



**PROUD MOMENT:** Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Senator Ian Macdonald open the new Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine building.  
Picture: ZAK SIMMONDS