

TAFE wins \$10m health hub boost

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A LOCAL learning centre has cashed in on the Rudd Government's "go green" campaign, pocketing \$10 million for an enviro-friendly building upgrade.

Construction at Tropical North Queensland TAFE, to be undertaken by local workers, will provide a nursing laboratory, dedicated health classrooms, computer rooms and administration offices to the campus' J block.

TAFE's application gained full funding from the Government's \$200 million Training Infrastructure Investment for Tomorrow program because of its green design and the region's need to increase nurses and health professionals.

Member for Leichhardt Jim Turnour, TAFE's funding co-ordinator Jason Van Ballegooyen and Cairns-based senator Jan McLucas unveiled the grant yesterday at the campus.

Mr Turnour said the funding would boost the health sector, provide jobs and be environmentally friendly.

"This project will keep the region working by supporting jobs in the construction industry whilst significantly enhancing



Sounding boards: Member for Leichhardt Jim Turnour (middle) and Senator Jan McLucas discuss outcomes with TAFE funding co-ordinator Jason Van Ballegooyen yesterday.

Picture: MIKE WATT

the capacity of the training sector in the tropical North," he said.

"It will help this region meet future training and employment needs in a sector for which there is always a strong demand, health.

"It is also exciting to see the local TAFE campus lead the way in 'green' building here in the tropi-

cal North, setting a 'best practice' benchmark."

Meanwhile, the second annual Green Living Expo is on today at TAFE.

The expo features about 30 exhibitors showcasing environment friendly products, services, projects and initiatives.