

ADDRESS BY
HIS HONOUR MR TOM PAULING AO QC
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
ON THE OCCASION OF
OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW RED CROSS PREMISES
Alice Springs
3 September 2008

It is a great pleasure for me, and for Mrs Pauling as the Patron of Australian Red Cross NT, to welcome you here this evening.

Australian Red Cross has been helping local communities since it was founded on 13th August 1914 following the outbreak of World War I. The Northern Territory Division now operates more than thirty different programs from Alice Springs to Darwin, including vital care services for the aged and disabled.

The primary focus of these new premises will be the roll out of the Good Start Breakfast Club – a volunteer based activity that provides breakfast to primary school children. Thirteen remote communities currently benefit from this program and Red Cross are seeking to extend this further.

The name “Milner Road” is itself linked with the provision of nourishment and supplies. As some of you may know, it commemorates brothers Ralph and John Milner who spent fifteen months in the 1870s bringing much-needed relief to those working

in the north on the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line. Ralph and John set off from South Australia with 7,000 sheep and 3,000 horses to help alleviate acute shortages caused by a very severe wet season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Red Cross for their quality service, undertaken with the help of many dedicated volunteers, for the benefit of the vulnerable within our communities.

I was delighted to officially open smart, new Red Cross premises in the Darwin Mall two weeks ago. These premises are no less impressive and will enable Red Cross to deliver the services that are key to its core commitments with greater efficiency and for the staff they provide a much improved working environment that can only do good for morale and output.

I have personally been a keen supporter of Red Cross for many years before becoming Administrator so it is doubly pleasing to now declare these premises officially open.

Thank you.