Foreword from Peak Group Joint Chairs

Since its launch, the Partnership Agreement has fostered greater cooperative and collaborative activity between Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government. Significant highlights of the Partnership include:

• the creation of Charles Darwin University;
• developing a National Accredited Accelerated Literacy Program;
• establishing a Higher Education Centre in Alice Springs;
• establishing a Broadband link between the Alice Springs town centre and Desert Knowledge Precinct;
• appointing significant new academic expertise in areas of tropical and desert knowledge, governance, health development, environment and sustainable land use; and
• leveraging a total of $5.75M in 03/04 to the Territory through collaborative activities.

Accordingly, the Partnership Agreement has successfully developed a number of key initiatives that contribute towards developing and implementing collaborative activities that are mutually productive, cooperative and confer lasting benefits to the social and economic development of the Northern Territory.

Procurement and the Partnership Agreement

A general certificate of exemption has recently been approved by Government, for activities forming the Partnership Agreement.

The requirement for contracts to be advertised as public tenders has been waived for services provided to Government by Charles Darwin University under the Partnership Agreement. Detailed guidelines are being prepared and will be available from the Partnership Agreement Secretariat in June.

Grant funding can also progress projects under the Partnership Agreement. For example, in 2004, Northern Territory Treasury awarded a $560,000 grant to Charles Darwin University for a three year program of research which examines demography in the Northern Territory and associated demographic methods. It was determined that the project would be supported by grant funding as research outcomes will be publicly available and collectively owned.

For further information regarding Procurement and the Partnership Agreement, contact the Contracts and Procurement Assist Line on 08 8999 1919.

what’s inside

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Awareness sessions

Awareness sessions have been developed to increase the profile and general understanding of the Partnership Agreement throughout Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government. The sessions will also seek to identify new opportunities for developing the Partnership.

Presentations are delivered by the Partnership Secretariat, which includes staff from both the University and Government. The sessions are to be conducted for key staff and middle managers throughout both organisations.

For further information regarding awareness sessions, please contact Jean Rodricks of the Partnership Agreement Secretariat on 08 8999 6207.

Workshops to grow the Partnership

In February 2005 a series of workshops were held for schedule teams. Participants came away with:

- a clearer understanding of the Peak Group’s role and reporting mechanisms under the Partnership Agreement;
- opportunities to identify and share efficiencies and principles for best practice for the Partnership; and
- generating and strengthening relationships between Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government.

Combined category workshops for the Partnership Agreement were held between 23-25 February 2005. The workshops were facilitated by Gail Humble, who led the groups to openly and honestly communicate their experience of the Partnership Agreement so far. Areas which were covered during the half-day workshops included successes, challenges and future directions for Schedule groups.

The workshops were well attended, and the participation level of those involved demonstrated the Schedule teams’ commitment to ensuring the success of the Partnership Agreement.

Key themes which were identified from the workshops included:
- the Partnership Agreement as a vehicle for creating strong and sustainable relationships amongst Schedule members;
- opportunities for communication and collaboration across Schedules;
- developing guidelines for adjunct staff recognition; and
- the need for further communication building to heighten understanding of the Partnership Agreement throughout the Northern Territory Government and Charles Darwin University.

The general consensus from the workshop groups was that the Partnership Agreement has opened up avenues for capacity building across the Territory, and would continue to do so in the future.

Do you see an opportunity or have a good idea?

The Partnership Agreement is flexible in its design, which ensures the partners involved can embrace new opportunities, ideas and innovative ways of working together to better the Territory.

So, if you would like to explore avenues for doing business under the Partnership Agreement, and building local capacity, then contact the Partnership Agreement Secretariat.

The Agreement is supported by a team of officers, within Government and University, who form the Secretariat. Principle contacts for the Partnership Agreement are Rachael Shanahan from the Department of the Chief Minister, and Janet Russell at Charles Darwin University.

More information is also accessible online:
www.cdu.edu.au/government/

This website contains key information on the Agreement, such as the Partnership Agreement Schedule Tree, a list and explanation of all Partnership schedules, events, research projects, people involved and contact details. The website is updated regularly to reflect the evolving nature of the Partnership Agreement.

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Strategic leadership for the University’s Business Development

Dr Claire Baxter has joined Charles Darwin University as Executive Director of Business Development to drive and provide direction for entrepreneurial activity in the University.

Dr Baxter will work with a network of staff across the University to identify new opportunities for Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government to work together and to provide support and advice to develop ideas successfully.

Charles Darwin University Vice-Chancellor Professor Helen Garnett said Dr Baxter’s appointment provides strong strategic leadership for the business development functions across the University.

“Claire Baxter’s appointment is a significant one in terms of leveraging our education and professional capabilities to provide and nurture future returns to the University and the Northern Territory community through involvement in a variety of commercial, marketing and networking initiatives,” Professor Garnett said.

Growing the Territory Workforce

A significant new initiative under Schedule 2.1 of the Partnership Agreement, The Territory Workforce: Analysis, Planning and Development, is the implementation of a new Master’s degree at Charles Darwin University, the Master of Public Governance.

The course will equip students with the knowledge and analytical capacity to make sense of, and to work effectively within and through, various modes of governance. Different modes of governance have different structural forms and operational methods as well as distinctive cultures which influence their decision-making and the utilisation of resources.

The Master of Public Governance is aimed at enhancing the student’s capacity to contribute in ways which are likely to maximise the potential of a variety of modes of governance, and to develop the student’s enthusiasm to engage in even higher level study in this exciting and important area of intellectual and practical inquiry.

This new program came about as a result of analysing Territory workforce needs in relation to current program delivery. The development of the Master of Public Governance shows how Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government can successfully work together to achieve combined goals. Continued on Page 05

‘Reinventing the Desert’

Targeting Indigenous economic development through Desert Knowledge grant

A Partnership collaboration under the Desert Knowledge Schedule 2.7 has been awarded $591,200 over three years to research pathways for Indigenous economic development in central Australia.

The research project will develop a multi-disciplinary team to research sustainable Indigenous futures in the resource abundant desert environment.

This exciting project realises the richness of Indigenous knowledge and the interest expressed by Indigenous land owners to develop capacity in land management, in areas as wide ranging as tourism, livestock and other economic drivers, wildlife and data collection for threatened species, sustain-ability and ecology. The project also aims to link the many sectors in private business, government and the community who currently address the issue of sustainable Indigenous futures.

Funding for the project has been made available by the Northern Territory Research and Innovation Fund, CSIRO, Charles Darwin University and the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre. The principal investigators for the research project will be Charles Darwin University’s Chair in Desert Knowledge, Professor Donna Craig, and the CSIRO’s Dr Jocelyn Davies.

“Charles Darwin University, and our many partners in this project, can play an important role in meeting the challenge of integrating institutions for economic development. It will also enhance Charles Darwin University’s development as a desert research specialist institution while building the integrated research capability in central Australia to be able to deliver a locally-sensitive and culturally-sensitive approach”, Professor Craig said.
Charles Darwin Symposium Series

Charles Darwin University held a successful series of symposia in 2004, with thought-provoking programs based around themes of the Creative Tropical City and The Living Desert.

The Charles Darwin Symposia Series commenced in 2003 under Schedule 2.5 of the Partnership Agreement, and is designed to mark the University as a space where diverse ideas about contemporary life and issues for Territorians can be debated across the community.

The Symposia Series delivers a stage for stimulating and enriching discussions, with the aim of translating ‘talk’ into achievable actions and extending the boundaries of future directions.

Following the success of the previous Symposia Series, two more symposia are planned for this year, with equally challenging and contemporary themes.

20:20 Vision: Facing health challenges of the next 20 years (31 May - 1 June 2005)

The health of many people living in the tropics is challenged by chronic and infectious diseases, poor living conditions and education, increasing temperatures, rapid urbanisation, global transmission of disease, drug resistance, political instability, and difficulties with essential service delivery.

It is envisaged that these issues will increase in scope and severity in the coming decades. It is therefore timely that government policy makers, the private sector and the community exchange views on how these issues should be managed, both now and in the future.

This symposium is being held in Darwin.

Imagining Childhood: Children, Culture and Our Community (20 - 22 September 2005)

“Children are our future” is a statement most would subscribe to. It expresses the heartfelt concern of parents who may set hopes they had for themselves onto their children, or the hope that change in families and cultural communities will be realised through children.

Politicians increasingly talk about investing in human capital, and childhood has moved to the forefront of Australian economic and social policy.

This symposium will bring an international debate on childhood to the Northern Territory and will invite the public, practitioners, policy-makers and intellectuals to engage closely with specialist scholars from the USA, UK and Australia.

This symposium is being held in Alice Springs.

The Charles Darwin Symposia Series represents a unique achievement in Government and University collaboration, in addressing issues of public policy, engaging community, and exploring academic creative thought. The thought, goodwill and actions emerging from the Symposia Series address one of the key objectives of the Charles Darwin University-Northern Territory Government Partnership Agreement, which is the creation of mutually beneficial outcomes for the Territory.
Research functions within Charles Darwin University

Research at Charles Darwin University is carried out in the Institute of Advanced Studies and the three Faculties: Law, Business and Arts; Education, Health and Science; and Technology.

With particular research strengths in the areas of
• Natural and Cultural Resource Management
• Human Health and Well-Being
• Teaching
• Learning and Living, and
• Community, Development and Identity,
the University's focus is on increased high quality research activity and output, that is effective and will increase resident research capacity in the NT.

A key objective of the Partnership Agreement between Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government is to grow resident capacity in the NT, and a strategy for achieving this objective is to develop the research function of the University. Under the Partnership Agreement, a working party was set up to look at the potential for collaborative research arrangements between Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government. The working group has identified a number of spheres with significant collaborative research arrangements in place. The Group has also developed a broad range of strategies to progressively improve collaborative research activity between Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government. The outcome of this work will be submitted to the next meeting of the Peak Group.

The University's Research Office is the point of contact for all outside agencies as well as for staff and students for research related enquiries. The Office is located within the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and is responsible for managing research grants and consultancies, research contracts, research ethics (human and animal), higher degree by research student administration, research reporting and research communications. Details on funding opportunities and researchers can be found on our web site at www.cdu.edu.au/research.

Alternatively, if you are from a business or government body and wish to discuss a research project, contact Dr Jenny Carter on 08 8946 6708 or email to jenny.carter@cdu.edu.au.

Growing the Territory Workforce

“Schedule 2.1 discussions have resulted in significant new course initiatives, as well as in the reworking of existing courses, in governance, leadership, change and development. They have also stimulated thought about how various integrated but flexible pathways can be ensured in relation to these courses”

- Ian Thynne, Schedule Champion for Schedule 2.1 - The Territory Workforce: Analysis, Planning and Development

Staff sharing

Working together to develop the Territory

Innovative employment arrangements are creating exciting opportunities for sharing knowledge and building expertise across the research sector.

Elizabeth Ganter, Principal Advisor with the Innovation and Knowledge Economy Unit, undertook an honorary fellowship with Charles Darwin University, through the School of Australian Indigenous Knowledge Systems (SAIKS). Ms Ganter is also Theme Leader for the research theme: Governance, Management and Leadership for Sustainable Futures within the Desert Knowledge Cooperation Research Centre, and joint Schedule champion for the Desert Knowledge Schedule of the Partnership Agreement.

In 2004, Ms Ganter was located at Charles Darwin University one day per week, where she assisted SAIKS in its aim to develop research in Indigenous Governance and Capacity Building. Ms Ganter also supports SAIKS and wider University engagement with the Desert Knowledge CRC. Professor Tony Barnes of Charles Darwin University’s Institute of Advanced Studies is contracted to NT Treasury on an 80% basis to provide demographic expertise and lead economic and social analysis. He was appointed Director of Treasury’s Economic and Social Analysis in January 2004, working with Treasury and the Institute’s School for Social and Policy Research to undertake and supervise policy-relevant demographic research.

- Prof Tony Barnes

BELOW Prof Tony Barnes

BELOW Prof Ian Thynne

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Partnership Agreement between Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government.

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Northern Territory Government

The Peak Group

Paul Tyrrell, Helen Garnett, Peter Plummer, Charles Webb, Mike Burgess, Don Zoellner

Charles Darwin University Council