

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

CDU/NTG Partnership Agreement

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Civil rights and skills shortages on Symposium agenda for 2007

The successful Charles Darwin Symposium Series continued with a session on 'Securing Territorians' Rights – Statehood and a Bill of Rights?' held at CDU's Casuarina campus on 10 May 2007.

The symposium, which was chaired by popular local media personality, the ABC's Leon Compton, explored the legal, constitutional and moral aspects of the question, 'Should a Bill of Rights be considered for the Northern Territory as it makes its move towards statehood?'

Keynote speakers at the symposium included Commissioner Tom Calma, who as Acting Race Discrimination Commissioner discussed the issues from an Indigenous perspective. Professor George Williams from the University of NSW spoke as a passionate advocate of a Bill of Rights.

Issues were drawn out from a number of different perspectives, including international and Indigenous, making the case for and against human rights legislation, as well as exploring the move towards statehood and its likely impact on federal-state relations.

About the Charles Darwin Symposia

The Charles Darwin Symposium series is an initiative of the CDU/NTG Partnership Agreement. It commenced in 2003 as a way of stimulating informed debate on issues of importance to all Territorians.

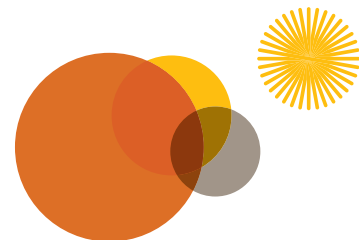
Successful symposia held to date have covered a number of broad ranging issues relevant to the Territory, including:

- 'The Creative Tropical City' held in Darwin in June 2004, and
- 'Prepare for Impact! When people and the environment collide in the tropics', held in Darwin in May 2006.

Outcomes of the Symposia include published works and successful Australian Research Council (ARC) grants.

The next symposium will be held in Alice Springs on 28 September 2007 and will focus on 'A skilled workforce for regional and remote Australia: Keeping, attracting and training'. This symposium will explore the multitude of issues faced by regional and remote Territory businesses and the NT Public Sector in maintaining a competitive and skilled workforce.

It will cover topics such as employment challenges, Indigenous employment and population migration. Further details on this and other symposia can be found at www.cdu.edu.au/cdss.



A SKILLED WORKFORCE FOR REGIONAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA: KEEPING, ATTRACTING, TRAINING

A FREE PUBLIC FORUM IN ALICE SPRINGS | 28 SEPTEMBER 2007

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Foreword from the Peak Group

In this latest edition of the Partnership newsletter we are pleased to see 2007 well underway with continued collaboration on key projects for both the University and the Northern Territory Government.

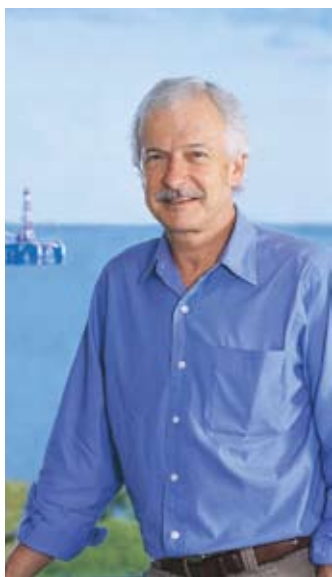
The 2007-2012 Partnership builds on the successful outcomes of the first Agreement and provides a platform for continued strategic collaboration between University and Government. The overarching aims of the Agreement are:

- Creating Better Economic Opportunities for all Territorians
- Caring for Territory Communities
- Achieving Environmentally Sustainable Development.

The Peak Group met with all schedule leaders in March and April to discuss the directions and goals of the 11 schedules. The meetings were very useful in generating two-way feedback and endorsement of ideas.

It is vital that we recognise the importance of pooling together limited resources, to develop and implement initiatives that can improve our competitiveness in the domestic and global economies. This approach can offer shortcuts to solutions that will bring economic, social and environmentally sustainable development to the Territory.

We invite you to read on and discover how Partnership activities are enriching the Territory, now and into the future.



ABOVE Professor Helen Garnett, Vice Chancellor, Charles Darwin University and Paul Tyrrell, Chief Executive, Department of the Chief Minister, Co-Chairs of the Partnership Agreement Peak Group.

CDU health researchers score at NT Research and Innovation Awards



ABOVE Dr Yin Paradies (right) is awarded the Chairman's Special Commendation Award by Professor Graham Webb for his work on the health impacts of racism on Indigenous Australians.

Two CDU researchers based at the Menzies School of Health Research (MSHR) were honoured for their major contributions to Territory public and Indigenous health at the NT Research and Innovation Awards, held on 10 May 2007 in Darwin.

Professor Nicholas Anstey received the Tropical Knowledge Research Award for malaria research. Professor Anstey's studies over the last 11 years have improved our understanding of how malaria causes severe disease and death, and have led to a series of clinical trials to better prevent and treat severe malaria. Dr Yin Paradies took home the Chairman's Special Commendation Award for his work on the health impacts of racism on Indigenous Australians.

Both researchers are based at the MSHR – a world-class research and postgraduate teaching facility and subsidiary of CDU located within the University's Institute of Advanced Studies. The MSHR is the only Australian health and medical research institute with a primary focus on the health of Indigenous communities and people living in tropical and remote areas.

Accelerated Literacy – tackling the educational divide

Improving the literacy levels of marginalised students, particularly Indigenous students in remote communities, is an enormous challenge. Through the CDU/NTG Partnership Agreement, the Department of Employment Education and Training (DEET) is working with CDU and participating schools to introduce the National Accelerated Literacy Program (NALP) to 100 Northern Territory schools by the end of 2008.

DEET staff are using the Accelerated Literacy (AL) methodology, with professional development support and resources from CDU, to address the literacy challenge. Teaching notes and videos specific to AL have been developed by CDU drawing on the university's extensive knowledge and experience through many years of research into teaching and learning methodology.

The resulting literacy gains for students to date have been significant. An online reporting system introduced in early 2006, managed by CDU with assistance from DEET, allows schools to directly input student assessment data, ensuring student progress is closely monitored and recorded.

An analysis of this data revealed that in 2006 the average progress rate for NT students participating in AL was 1.74 reading levels per year – considerably above the expected average gain of one reading level per year.

The **CDU/NTG Partnership Agreement has been a vital link in the chain of NALP**, enabling the sharing of staff, resources, knowledge and support for a program improving the educational outcomes of marginalised students across the Territory.

More information can be found at www.nalp.edu.au.



ABOVE Students in remote communities participate in the National Accelerated Literacy Program.

Natural Resource Management in Indonesia – partnership style

CDU and NTG staff will work together under the second Partnership Agreement to continue a range of projects in the field of land and natural resource management in eastern Indonesia under the Schedule Sustainable Terrestrial and Aquatic Resources.

Action research and training projects have assisted in community development, improved resource management and increased capacity – particularly in Nusa Tenggara Timur province (NTT). NTT is one of the poorest provinces in Indonesia and like the NT, has a savannah-dominated landscape prone to fire.

CDU and Bushfires Council NT staff worked with communities, local government and NGOs in Sumba and Flores in 2004/05 to assess the causes, extent and impacts of uncontrolled fires. These communities are now using strategic controlled burning to minimise wildfire damage to agro-forestry plantations, gardens and homes.

CDU and NTG staff from the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) were also active participants in the Review of Integrated Rural Development workshop in Kupang last year. Both Northern Territory and Indonesian partners recognised that sustainable rural development requires integration of economic, social, political and environmental issues. An action plan was developed cooperatively by members of the NTG, CDU and visiting Indonesian authorities to provide a framework for future cooperative research and training in NTT.

Last year, links were developed between Provincial and District level government officers in NTT and their counterparts in Darwin through a Public Sector Linkage project funded by AusAID. The NTG played a crucial role as host of a study tour of senior NTT officers to Darwin in June last year. CDU provided training in monitoring, computer-based landscape mapping and Geographic Information System for Indonesian Government and NGO staff. Training was delivered jointly by Indonesian officers trained in the fire project, CDU and a colleague from Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana in Salatiga, Java.

CDU and NTG activities in NTT have increased local government capacity to plan and monitor land management strategies. The ultimate aims are to increase food security, alleviate poverty in rural communities and encourage wise land management through community engagement. Alleviating poverty through wise land management will in turn reduce the amount of aid required by Indonesia and create stability in a poor region. **The activities undertaken by CDU and NTG staff also build relationships with our nearest neighbour that foster productive cooperation and mutual understanding.**

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Links with CDU activities in Indonesia can be found at www.cdu.edu.au/itl. For further information see fireindon.cdu.edu.au/workshop.



ABOVE Donna Lewis from the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts, explaining land resource survey methods near Palmerston to visiting government officers from Nusa Tenggara Timur (Eastern Indonesia). Photo: Rohan Fisher

Larnie McClintock – Work Integrated Learning Scholar

The Work Integrated Learning Scholarship (WILS) is an initiative of the CDU/NTG Partnership Agreement. WILS aims to attract and retain high-performing Year 12 students to the Northern Territory.

In the 2006-2007 holiday period, the Department of the Chief Minister (DCM) hosted the first WILS scholar, Larnie McClintock, for a 12 week placement. Larnie completed her first year of a Bachelor of Business and Economics at CDU in 2006. These are her thoughts on the experience:

"I was fortunate enough to be a recipient of the scholarship last year and began my first placement in November 2006 with DCM.

"During the placement I contributed to and worked on many different projects and initiatives, preparing briefs, letters, ministerial correspondence and a Cabinet Submission. Some of the issues I dealt with included the Australian Government Health and Social Services Access Card, the Panasonic World Solar Challenge and the CDU/NTG Partnership Agreement.

"I developed briefs using information collected from a number of NT Government agencies and my own research. This experience has helped me further develop my skills of working independently and in a team, adapting to different working environments, as well as summarising information collected for whole-of-government position papers.

"Working on such projects with DCM has also developed my written skills and ability to present information, which will be useful for my continuing placements and studies."

The WILS program aims to build the Territory's skills base and produce potential future employees that understand the professional NT Public Sector (NTPS) working environment. Incorporating full-time tertiary education with paid work experience during the Christmas semester break, the scholarship encourages student's ongoing participation in the NTPS.



ABOVE Larnie McClintock, the Department of the Chief Minister's Work Integrated Learning Scholar with Graham Symons, Deputy Chief Executive, Department of the Chief Minister.

New courses at the Graduate School for Health Practice

The Graduate School for Health Practice at CDU was established as a direct result of the CDU/NTG Partnership Agreement. Founded in August 2005, the Graduate School plays a key role in meeting the Territory's unique health education needs.

The Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS) and University staff work alongside one another to develop, accredit and deliver courses at the University.

There are currently four DHCS staff teaching at the University in new and re-accredited courses improving health services training and delivery, created through the Partnership. They are the:

- Master of Midwifery
- Master of Nursing
- Graduate Diploma in Child and Family Health
- Graduate Diploma in Health (Alcohol and Other, Mental Health, Renal Health)
- Graduate Diploma in Midwifery
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing

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The exciting range of new courses offered by the Graduate School for Health Practice demonstrates how the Partnership Agreement has been successful in tackling Territory specific workforce development needs, providing real career development pathways for Territorians.

A number of successful shared staff arrangements between the Graduate School and DHCS have also been implemented. Further details of how staff sharing between University and Government can be effected are found in the Framework for Staff Sharing Arrangements between CDU and the Northern Territory Government, which is located at www.cdu.edu.au/government/staff-sharing-framework.html.

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.

The Agreement is supported by a team of officers, within Government and University, who form the Secretariat. If you would like to explore avenues for doing business and building local capacity under the Partnership Agreement, then contact the Secretariat.

The Secretariat is also available to assist Schedule leaders, team members and other parties, with queries regarding the operation of the Agreement, including reporting mechanisms, responsibilities and structure.

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

This website contains key information on the Agreement such as the Schedule structure, which includes contact details for people involved, a list and explanation of all Schedules, news and events, policies and publications, and contact details.

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New to the Partnership Agreement

We welcome to the Partnership Agreement Professor Wendy Brady. Professor Brady is a new staff member at CDU and is Head of School, School of Australian Indigenous Knowledge Systems. She will take on the role of CDU Schedule Leader of Indigenous Opportunities.



Professor Wendy Brady is a Wiradjuri. Her ancestors come from Wagga Wagga (NSW) and she grew up in Sydney. She was the first Aboriginal person to be awarded a PhD in Education from the University of Sydney.

Professor Brady was a Senior Indigenous Research Fellow with the Centre for Learning Innovation at the Queensland University of Technology before joining CDU and has a long history of working in the delivery of Indigenous education. She is an experienced researcher, author and academic in the fields of Indigenous knowledge, Indigenous higher education, and international Indigenous studies.

Professor Brady will provide an invaluable contribution to the CDU-NTG Partnership Agreement through the Indigenous Opportunities schedule, as well as to the NT field of Indigenous knowledge systems.

CDU governance expert boosts Department's leadership

A good example of the strong relationships being formed between Government and the University as a result of the Partnership Agreement, was the invitation extended to Professor Ian Thynne, Chair of Governance at CDU, to become a member of the Strategic Leadership Team at the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines (DPIFM).

Professor Thynne's role is particularly relevant to the department's commitments and obligations under its strategic plan and associated policies. DPIFM aims to ensure that the strategic plan is integral to the work of the organisation. Professor Thynne considers that a strategic plan, while it can be used in reporting performance, must primarily underpin the core activities of DPIFM.

In DPIFM's 2005-06 Annual Report, the Chief Executive John Carroll highlighted that new arrangements would apply for governance within DPIFM from the beginning of 2006-07, including the appointment of Professor Thynne as a non-executive member of the Strategic Leadership Team.

2007-2012

Charles Darwin University/Northern Territory Government Partnership Agreement Structure

