Graduate School of Health Practice opens at CDU

A new Graduate School of Health Practice has been established in the Territory as a joint initiative between Charles Darwin University and the Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS). The Graduate School, founded under the Partnership Agreement in August this year, will play a key role in meeting the Territory’s unique health education needs.

The initiative is aimed at improving clinical outcomes and up-skilling a workforce that meets the health needs of Territorians. It will cater for a wide range of health professionals, especially those in high demand in the Territory, including nurses and allied health workers such as midwives, physiotherapists and Aboriginal Health Workers.

CDU Vice Chancellor Helen Garnett said the Graduate School will work in partnership with DHCS and in strategic collaboration with other service, education and research providers.

"The School will lead unique, best-practice health professional education and service development in the Territory," Professor Garnett said.

The school will offer relevant short courses, new graduate courses and co-supervision of PhD students, as well as conducting analysis and research into the delivery of health services specific to the Territory. Continued on page 2

Territory receives bioscience boost

An exciting addition to the research and educational capacity of the Northern Territory was launched on 27 October at Charles Darwin University and the adjacent Arafura Timor Research Facility.

The new molecular biology facility, Bioscience North Australia (BNA), comprises well-equipped laboratories supporting research into real-world problems. The facility is a result of collaboration under the Partnership Agreement between CDU and the Territory Government.

BNA was officially opened by Minister for Economic Development Paul Henderson, who said it will attract top scientists from around Australia and overseas because it is a first-class facility able to provide a strategic base for scientists doing research in northern Australia and Southeast Asia.

"One of the key pieces of equipment is a ‘gene sequencer’, which decodes the DNA of plants, animals and micro-organisms and was purchased with a $330,000 grant from the Territory Government to CDU,” Mr Henderson said.

Leader of BNA, Associate Professor Karen Gibb, said the facility is taking shape and the launch has already attracted interest, projects and new students. "The grant has given legitimacy and a green light to molecular biology in the Territory - particularly in its capacity to support issues in ecology, biodiversity, monitoring and diagnostics," Ms Gibb said.

The funding will enable research, innovation and commercial development in molecular biology and related fields through BNA. In the spirit of the Partnership Agreement, the activities and networks under BNA will be developed collaboratively by the project partners through a BNA Advisory Group.
How can I find out more about a Schedule under the Partnership Agreement?

Each project or activity under the Partnership Agreement is categorised as a Schedule, and there are currently 23 Schedules in operation. Details of each Schedule, including contact details for Schedule Champions (who lead each Schedule to success) and their members, are incorporated in the Schedule tree, which is updated regularly. The latest version of the Schedule tree is located on p6, or at http://www.cdu.edu.au/government/schedule-downloads.html. The Secretariat is also available to assist you with any queries about the Partnership Agreement. Their contact details are provided at page 4.
Conference imagines a better childhood

The future and welfare of children focussed the attention of Australian and international experts at the September Charles Darwin Symposium held in Alice Springs - Imagining Childhood: Children, Culture and Our Community.

This Symposium explored the hopes and dreams placed on the new generation, and the concept of children as an investment in human capital, shaping the development of Australian economic and social policy.

The conference heard many ideas put forward to enhance the education of children. A proposal from the Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF) would see a dedicated children's television channel established that gives children a voice and fosters childhood creativity, innovation and a sense of being an important part the community.

ACTF Chief Executive Officer, Ms Jenny Buckland, told participants that a vast library of outstanding content already existed to provide such a service, because of more than 20 years of this country's children's drama quota.

"Ideally, the channel the ACTF envisaged would feature broad-ranging children's programs but also news, current affairs, educational content, documentaries, drama, comedy and films. We have great faith that an Australian children's service could succeed," Ms Buckland said.

The welfare of Indigenous children also featured prominently at the symposium. Mick Gooda, Darwin-based CEO of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health, argued that intervention to protect children against violence and neglect must always be about what is best for the child, and it should even go as far as removing a child from his or her family if the situation calls for such action.

"For me, the word intervention has all the nasty connotations of taking the children away. That would be the ultimate intervention and we should not shy away from even that, in the cases that would merit that response," Mr Gooda said.

Leading NT early childhood educator Isabella Adams said future early childhood policies and strategies affecting Indigenous children must be designed in partnership with, and must build the capacity of, Indigenous people. "I suggest that for all the good intentions, early childhood services have largely missed the goal of making a difference for Indigenous children," Ms Adams said.

The Charles Darwin Symposia Series commenced in 2003 and offer the community a forum where diverse ideas about contemporary life and issues relevant to the Territory can be publicly debated.

Further details of the Charles Darwin Symposium Series can be found at: www.cdu.edu.au/cdss/

Strengthening the Partnership

International education under the spotlight

A workshop aimed at strengthening the Territory’s international education market has been held at Charles Darwin University. The workshop explored Australian trends in the international student market and future activities and actions for promoting the Territory as a place to study.

The workshop included participants from CDU, the Territory Government, Darwin City Council, Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Department of Education, Science and Training, the Australian College of Languages, and six Darwin-based secondary schools/colleges.

The participants focused on shared interests and ways of increasing international student enrolments in the Territory.

As a result of the workshop, innovative options are now being looked at for promoting the Territory as a place to study to our overseas neighbours. These include the development of a business plan and the consolidation of the Study North Australia Consortium.
Schedule Champions Forum

A Schedule Champions Forum for the Partnership Agreement was held on 22 August 2005. The Forum was hosted by the Peak Group, who encouraged Schedule Champions to explore practical avenues for prioritising and addressing the recommendations arising from Category Workshops held earlier this year.

The workshop dealt with issues such as the governance structure of the Agreement, the development of Schedules, reporting, evaluation and creative ways of communicating.

The Forum was opened by the Peak Group Joint Chairs, Prof Helen Garnett and Paul Tyrrell. The Chairs emphasised the value placed on the Agreement by the University and Government, and the commitment that each party has to extending the life of the Agreement past its initial three year term.

The Peak Group also congratulated Schedule Champions and members for their dedication and hard work so far in achieving the objectives of the Agreement, and developing real outcomes for the benefit of the Territory.

Review of the Partnership Agreement

The issues raised at the Forum have guided the development of the terms of reference for the review of the Partnership Agreement. Ms Marilynne Marshall from Risk Management Services within the Department of the Chief Minister is conducting the review.

If you wish to contribute to the review please contact Marilynne on 8999 6009 or marilyanne.marshall@nt.gov.au


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.

If you would like to explore avenues for doing business under the Agreement, or have ideas for building local capacity, contact the Partnership Agreement Secretariat.

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

More information is also available on the Partnership website: 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.

Janet Russell
Special Project Officer
Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Charles Darwin University
T: 08 8946 6044
E: janet.russell@cdu.edu.au

Rachael Shanahan
Policy Officer
Policy and Coordination Unit
Department of the Chief Minister
T: 08 8999 6176
E: rachael.shanahan@nt.gov.au
The Partnership Secretariat has developed new initiatives that facilitate the theme of ‘working together for mutual benefit’ under the Partnership Agreement. Here are some of the new initiatives which have been developed:

**Procurement Policy**

A Procurement Policy, including step-by-step guidelines, has been developed for operational staff involved with tendering under the Partnership Agreement.

The Procurement Policy under the Partnership Agreement is the result of a General Certificate of Exemption which now applies to any relevant services that can be provided to Government by Charles Darwin University. The exemption only applies to services under the Agreement; all relevant procurement processes still apply for contracts of $10,000 or more, such as lodging a Request for Tender.

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


**Charles Darwin University/Northern Territory Government Staff Sharing Framework**

A growing number of Schools at CDU and NTG Agencies are realising the benefits of shared staffing arrangements, such as knowledge transfer, capacity building and research-based policy making.

In response, a framework on shared staffing arrangements is being developed in collaboration with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment and the People and Learning Division at Charles Darwin University.

The framework will provide a simplified framework for managers to refer to when developing shared staff contracts, and will include contacts for both organisations who will be able to assist with any queries. The framework will also provide guidelines on issues such as leave entitlements, intellectual property rights and salary maintenance.


**NEW Work Integrated Learning Scholarships**

A new scholarship program is being established to combat skills shortages in the Territory’s Public Sector and give tertiary students useful on-the-job training.

The Work Integrated Learning Scholarships will combine work experience with formal study. They will be funded by Northern Territory Government agencies, who will offer scholarship holders $5000 per year of study, and provide them with practical workplace experience during their vacation breaks.

The scholarships are a great way of addressing identified skill shortages in the public sector which, as the largest employer in the Territory, is dedicated to building capacity and a stronger skills base for the benefit of all Territorians.

They also reward the host agency by bringing bright, energetic and enthusiastic learners into the workplace. It is hoped that the program will create a pool of prospective employees who are already familiar with particular departments, as well as processes across the NT Public Sector.

For further information on the Work Integrated Learning Scholarships, and how you can be involved, contact Chani Mortimer at the Partnership Secretariat on 8999 7712.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Champions and Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Government University Partnership</td>
<td>Paul Tyrrell - 8999 6172 Helen Garnett - 8946 6040 Partnership Secretariat - 8946 6044/6999 6176</td>
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<td>1.2</td>
<td>Health and Community Services: Building Capacity in Service Delivery in the NT</td>
<td>Lesley Barclay - 8946 6974 Louise Clark - 8946 2583 Steve Guthridge - 8946 4016 Mary Morris - 8946 6405 Ruth Wallace - 8946 6044 Peter Boyce - 8946 6044/6999 6176</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Strengthening Scientific Research Capacity in the Territory</td>
<td>Greg Leach - 8999 4520 David Parry - 8946 6701 Elizabeth Gantler - 8946 6633 Bob Wasson - 8999 5364 Richard Sellers - 8946 6233</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>Supporting the Energy and Mining Industries</td>
<td>David Malone - 8999 5364 Steve Shanahan - 8946 6233 John Carroll - 8946 6657</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Supporting the Transport and Logistics Industry</td>
<td>Steve Shanahan - 8946 6233 Gregory Mee - 8999 5364 Les Hodgson - 8924 3837 Scott Snyder - 8946 6233</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Strengthening ICT Capacity and Building Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Developing the Defence Support Industry</td>
<td>Gareth James - 8999 5109 Peter Simms - 8946 6633 Steve Shanahan - 8946 6233 Brenda Eilenrijk - 8946 6633</td>
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<td>2.3</td>
<td>Enhancing Teacher Capability in ICTs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Addressing Family Violence</td>
<td>Brian Devlin - 8946 6158 Claire Kilgarriff - 8999 5811 Robert Pascoe - 8946 6158 Farid Kisch - 8946 6158 Barbara White - 8946 6158</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Finding Solutions: The Charles Darwin Symposia</td>
<td>Bob Wasson - 8946 9698 Raelach Shanahan - 8999 6176</td>
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<td>3.1</td>
<td>Charles Darwin University</td>
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<td>3.2</td>
<td>Institute of Advanced Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Building on Success: The Menzies School of Health Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Improving VET delivery in the Territory</td>
<td>Bob Nixon - 8959 5400 Pam Morgan - 8959 5400 Kim Jenkinson - 8991 1303 Kate Finlayson - 8991 1303</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Land Grant University</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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<td>3.6</td>
<td>International Education: Increasing the NT’s International Education Profile</td>
<td>Monica Turvey - 8946 6335 Kerry Moir - 8991 4804 Phil Blumberg - 8991 4804</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Commercial use of Native Species by Indigenous People</td>
<td>Peter Whitehead - 8946 6703 Murray Hird - 8946 6703 Paul Angier - 8999 4804 Tony Bowland - 8999 6172 Julian Gorman - 8999 6172 Donna Craig - 8999 6172</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>The National Accelerated Literacy Program</td>
<td>Tess Lea - 8946 7241 Ken Davies - 8946 5785</td>
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<td>4.3</td>
<td>Youth Engagement: Indigenous Music Training</td>
<td>Adrian Walter - 8946 6653 Rolf Gerritsen - 8999 5178 Graham Chadwick - 8946 6158 Chris Manners - 8946 6158 Billawra Lee - 8946 6158</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Graduate Certificate in Community Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Indigenous Youth Leadership Development Program</td>
<td>Leon Morris - 8999 6993 Ian Falk - 8946 6051 Ruth Wallace - 8946 6051 Nicole Kilgour - 8946 6051 Allan Arnott - 8946 6051</td>
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**Partnership Agreement between Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government.**