Charles Darwin University/
Northern Territory Government
Partnership
Memorandum of Understanding
2014-2021

Between

CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY
Ellengowan Drive
DARWIN NT 0909
ABN 54 093 513 649

And

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT
as represented by the
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
55 Mitchell Street
DARWIN NT 0800
ABN 84 085 734 992
1. **This Memorandum of Understanding is made on 24 November 2014**

An educated, skilled and adaptable workforce underpinned by modern education and training systems and institutions has always been and always will be integral to the Northern Territory’s economic and social development.

The Northern Territory Government recognises the importance of having a university present and operating in the Northern Territory. Charles Darwin University ensures Territorians are able to access locally a complete education system: combined with the Territory’s government and non-government primary and secondary schools, Territorians can study from preschool through to post-graduate level including trades through vocational education and training.

This memorandum provides a framework for collaboration between the Northern Territory Government and Charles Darwin University.

2. **Overview of each party to this Memorandum of Understanding**

2.1 **Charles Darwin University:**

Charles Darwin University (CDU) has been delivering tertiary education for 50 years in the Northern Territory (NT). CDU is the largest tertiary institution in the NT, with campuses in Darwin city at the Waterfront, the Darwin suburb of Casuarina, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Katherine and Nhulunbuy, and training centres in Jabiru, Tennant Creek and Yulara.

CDU is committed to the Charles Darwin University/Northern Territory Government Partnership and recognises that a strong and successful partnership between our organisations will be mutually beneficial and in the long-term interests of the Northern Territory (NT).

2.2 **Northern Territory Government:**

The NT Government recognises the role CDU continues to play as a major contributor to the social, economic and intellectual development of Northern Australia. The concentration of resident academic staff contributes significantly to the Territory’s knowledge economy.

The NT Government is committed to its ongoing partnership with CDU and notes the innovative growth and maturation of the university since its commencement in its current form in 2002.
3. Objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is designed to support a mutually beneficial relationship.

The objectives of the MOU are:

- bring together CDU and NT Government resources and concentrate energies on the attainment of mutual and shared goals in specific areas that are of benefit to the NT;

- increase collaboration and joint investment in areas of commonality in research and workforce development in the higher education and vocational education and training sectors. The partnership enables whole-of-Territory positions for the Commonwealth Government and other stakeholders;

- work together to build stronger links between the NT Government and CDU and contribute to the continued expansion of resident intellectual capacity throughout the NT; and

- actively explore opportunities for cooperation and joint investment in human, physical, information and communication technology, and infrastructure development.

4. Maintenance, Operation and Amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding

4.1 This MOU is current for a period of seven years from the date of signing.

4.2 This MOU can be extended subject to both parties' agreement in writing.

4.3 Changes to this MOU will be negotiated through the offices of those signing this MOU.

5. Activities that arise from this Memorandum of Understanding

It is not intended that this MOU will create binding legal obligations. The MoU is intended as a framework to facilitate negotiations between the two parties. All obligations binding on the two parties will be contained in specific formal agreement(s).

Time-limited and project-specific working groups comprising both CDU and NT Government representatives may also be established from time to time to progress issues that are presented to the Executive Committee.
6. Governance

6.1 The MOU shall be interpreted by and governed by an Executive Committee.

6.2 The Executive Committee will:

(a) be a forum whereby CDU planning will be informed by NT Government priorities for education, training and research and likewise, NT Government policy making and planning are informed by the aspirations of CDU;
(b) ensure NT Government input into CDU's discussions with the Commonwealth Government and other stakeholders influencing the future directions of CDU;
(c) ensure CDU input and contribution into NT Government discussion and engagement with the Commonwealth Government and other stakeholders, particularly in the area of education, training and research;
(d) meet annually with Chief Executives of NT Government agencies and senior CDU staff to discuss progress and strategy of the Partnership;
(e) review for best practice the protocols that guide the development and assessment of collaborative projects, including: mutual development and leverage potential; capacity to deal with once-off specific issues; capacity for mutual benefit; and ability to link NT Government and CDU policy and strategy;
(f) assess the strategic direction of the Partnership;
(g) meet as necessary, and at least three times per calendar year to discuss strategic priorities and longitudinal work that could be undertaken collaboratively;
(h) report as necessary to University Council and NT Government;
(i) comprise two representatives each of CDU and NT Government; and
(j) be supported jointly by staff from both CDU and NT Government.

7. Communications, Media and Branding

7.1 The parties to this MOU recognise that high level performance monitoring and open communication are essential to the success of the memorandum and agree to develop systems for ongoing dialogue on the full range of issues of mutual interest. In doing this the parties also recognise and support the need for continuing contact between members of CDU and officers of NT Government on matters of mutual interest that are not specifically included in this memorandum.

8. Evaluation

This MOU will be evaluated as required by the Executive Committee and within six months of its seven year term.
9. Amendments

The parties may alter or amend this Memorandum at any time provided that such variation is agreed in writing and is signed by both parties.

Signed for and on behalf of Charles Darwin University:

[Signature]

Simon Maddocks

Vice-Chancellor

Signed for and on behalf of Northern Territory Government

[Signature]

Adam Giles

Chief Minister

Witness signature

STEVE SHANAHAN

Witness name

ACTING PVC VET

Position

Witness signature

PETER CHANDLER

Witness name

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Position