SCHEDULE 9: GOOD GOVERNANCE

Schedule Leaders:

- Ian Thynne (Charles Darwin University)
- Ken Simpson (Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment)

The schedule is managed by a Schedule Team comprising eight members appropriately selected to encompass the context, issues, priorities, goals and strategies of the Schedule. The Team is jointly chaired by the Schedule leaders. The other members of the Team are:

- Danielle Cross (Director, Strategic Workforce Development, Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment)
- Ken Davies (Deputy Chief Executive, Department of the Chief Minister)
- Leigh Deves (Professor of Management, School of Law and Business, Charles Darwin University)
- Paul Fitzsimons (Director, Remote Coordination, Charles Darwin University)
- Gweneth Norris (Professor of Accounting, School of Law and Business, Charles Darwin University)
- David Ritchie (Chief Executive, Department of Local Government and Housing)

1. Context & Issues

Context:

Good governance concerns the distribution and use of power through a complex array of institutions, organisations and associated arrangements involving the state, market and civil society, domestically and internationally. Of particular importance is the need for an appropriate alignment of people, structures, work and performance, with an emphasis on accountability, transparency, trust and legitimacy. An underlying aim is to ensure outputs and outcomes which enhance the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the community.
Issues:

Consistent with the above description, the Schedule addresses issues of good governance under the following headings in relation to the Northern Territory Public Sector, local governments, and various profit and not-for-profit organisations involved in the provision of public services in the Territory:

- **human capital and capacity enhancement** (focusing on leadership, management, strategic planning and associated education and training programs – both accredited (from VTE level through to postgraduate studies) and non-accredited (in the form of seminars, workshops and related modules in response to specific needs and objectives);

- **structures, processes and change** (focusing on the use of various types of organisations, the systems and strategies adopted by organisations, and the management of organisational reform and change);

- **goods, services, roles and tasks** (focusing on the allocation of functions and responsibilities to organisations, including inter-organisational collaborative alliances, outsourcing initiatives, and public-private partnerships); and

- **performance management, control and accountability** (focusing on organisational performance systems and evaluation, the work of internal and external control authorities, and the forms and requirements of accountability).

2. **Shared Strategic Priorities**

All four issue areas identified above are relevant to the responsibilities of other Schedules. In all cases, the people, structures, work and performance arrangements involved need not only to be appropriately aligned, but also to be managed strategically so as to maximise the public value of the outputs and outcomes of government and governance systems in the Northern Territory. As such, the Schedule Team needs to collaborate with other Schedule Teams with the aim of rationalising and coordinating our goals, strategies and activities.

The priorities of the Schedule are to address and respond to existing and future issues of good governance, with an underlying recognition of the governance-related need for Charles Darwin University continually to enhance its teaching and research capacity and, concomitantly, its attractiveness to students and staff.

The broad priority of the Schedule is to foster good governance by way of relevant:

- teaching and learning initiatives – appreciating that the enhancement of human capital and capacity is dependent, fundamentally, on the existence of education and training programs which are appropriately designed, delivered and assessed in accordance with clear needs and objectives; and

- research aimed at understanding and evaluating the structures, work and performance of organisations involved in the management of public affairs in the Territory – as a sound basis on which to determine and advise on areas in need of change and improvement.
Specific priority areas include:

- leadership development, Indigenous capacity building, and the development of emerging talent in the Northern Territory Public Sector;
- the challenges of the reformed local government system; and
- the assessment and reporting of performance both by, and in relation to, Northern Territory Public Sector organisations.

3. Goals

(a) 2009 - 2010:

(i) consolidate our work in relation to human capital and capacity enhancement;
(ii) address the challenges of local governments;
(iii) monitor and, where necessary, advise on the assessment and reporting of organisational performance; and
(iv) expand our work into other areas in accordance with the Schedule’s context and issues;

(b) 2011 - 2012:

(i) consolidate our work in relation to all priority areas addressed in the first four years; and
(ii) further expand our work into other areas in accordance with the Schedule’s context and issues.

4. Strategies

Various strategies are adopted by the Schedule, including:

- partnering with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, the Treasury and Charles Darwin University in the design, offering and evaluation of education and training programs for the Northern Territory Public Sector;
- partnering with the Institute of Public Administration Australia (NT Division) in relation to its seminar, workshop and conference initiatives, as well as its responsibility for assessing the quality of annual reports produced by Northern Territory Public Sector organisations;
- partnering with the Department of Local Government and Housing in relation to the challenges of local governments; and
- facilitating and, in some cases, undertaking research into priority issues.
The first of these strategies builds on the work of Schedule 2.1 under the first Partnership Agreement.

The other strategies are new to the second Partnership Agreement.

All of the strategies are aligned with the teaching, research, evaluation and shared communication outcomes of the Partnership Agreement with the aim of fostering good governance in the Northern Territory Public Sector, local governments, and various profit and not-for-profit organisations involved in the provision of public services in the Territory.

5. **Key Performance Indicators**

The key performance indicators of the Schedule include or relate to:

- The design, delivery and assessment of relevant education and training programs in accordance with clear needs and objectives.

- Appropriate participation and completion rates for relevant education and training programs.

- Appropriate competency development and advancement rates for Indigenous staff and emerging talent in the Northern Territory Public Sector.

- Effective learning from the reform of local governments.

- Notable improvements in the assessment and reporting of organisational performance in the Northern Territory Public Sector.