

## CDU, BIITE join forces in \$30m Indigenous education centre

The Northern Territory leaders in Indigenous education are joining forces to create the \$30.7 million Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Education.

### BELOW

The Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Education will focus on the future higher education needs of Indigenous Australians. Image courtesy Tourism NT.



The Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) and Charles Darwin University received the funding in the 2009 Federal Budget.

CDU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover said he was delighted with the Budget announcement which would significantly augment Indigenous education in the NT.

The centre will be co-managed and run by CDU and BIITE staff, and construction of a new building is scheduled to begin in late 2009.

The multi-purpose building on CDU's Casuarina campus will house instructional, research, teaching and computer facilities.

"The centre will expand the capacity of CDU and BIITE to deliver positive outcomes to Indigenous communities and the Higher Education sector in areas relating to Indigenous knowledge and education," Professor Glover said.

"CDU and BIITE individually focus on the needs of Indigenous Australians to an extent unsurpassed in the Australian Higher Education sector," he said.

BIITE's Acting Vice-Chancellor, Dr Tony Mordini echoed Professor Glover's comments, adding that "the funding will help strengthen the capacity of both institutions to meet the current and emerging training and professional development needs of Indigenous people, particularly the urban Indigenous population in the Darwin region".



## CDU part of \$8m Local Government Centre of Excellence

CDU is set to be part of an \$8 million Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government, announced by the Australian Government.

The centre, which will promote best practice, innovation and professionalism in local government, is the first of its kind in Australia and CDU will be a key program partner.

The Centre will be based at the University of Technology, Sydney, as part of a consortium that includes the University of Canberra and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG).

CDU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover said the university would provide the essential NT input to the national reach of the Centre.

"The university will work with other partners on the delivery of leadership programs through the ANZSOG network, and develop the program area of rural, remote and Indigenous Australia," Professor Glover said.

"The University already has key infrastructure in place, most notably the CDU-NT Government Partnership

Agreement which facilitates collaboration between the University and Government on a wide range of matters of significance to the NT and beyond."

The Centre will contribute to national debate on current and emerging challenges facing local government, including the impacts of the global economic crisis, climate change and its consequences, management of local government infrastructure, and enhancing the capacity of local governments to serve their communities.

Its courses and services will be available across urban, rural and remote Australia, using on-line delivery and physical presence.



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Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announces the Centre of Excellence during a meeting of the Australian Council for Local Government at Parliament House, Canberra.

