

# Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation

Charles Darwin University (CDU) recognises the social, cultural and natural endowments of the Northern Territory, and is committed to the advancement and prosperity of our region and the nation. With a Territory Indigenous population of around 30%, CDU is committed to becoming a preferred choice for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students seeking studies in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education (HE), and a leader in the teaching and understanding of Indigenous knowledge systems.

CDU acknowledges that colonisation and past public policies have impacted on the lives of the first peoples and marginalised many. Prejudice and systemic racism continue to affect Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today. CDU recognises the important role our public institution can play in the achievement of genuine and sustainable reconciliation in Australia.

We are proud of the achievements of our distinguished Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, graduates, staff, committee members, and laureates, and respect the cultural richness and diversity of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. CDU aims to continue building a University culture and demographic that reflects the society within which we are based, and we hereby reaffirm our commitment to Indigenous participation.

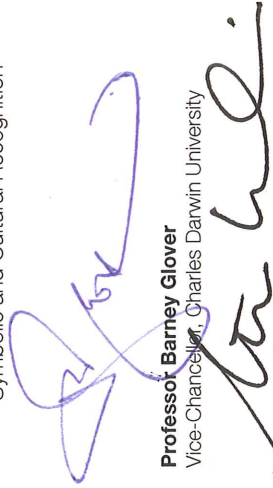
This agreement commits the CDU to developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) by 30 June 2012. Development of our RAP will involve consultation with all staff across the University, as well as external Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and other interested parties. CDU also hope to engage the wider NT community and corporate community in support of our reconciliation aspirations. The RAP will be based on developing; relationships, respect and opportunities.

## Key elements of the process

- The Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Group (VCAG) will oversee the project.
- A Working Group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders will draft the RAP through extensive consultation with both internal and external stakeholders.
- Once ratified and registered with Reconciliation Australia, the RAP will be launched publically.
- The RAP will be implemented across the University.
- Ongoing evaluation of the RAP will occur at least annually.

## Key areas of action

- Indigenous Leadership
- Cultural Competency
- Symbolic and Cultural Recognition



**Professor Barney Glover**  
Vice-Chancellor, Charles Darwin University

**Professor Steve Larkin**  
Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous leadership, Charles Darwin University



**Dr Jack Ah Kit**  
Chair, Vice-Chancellor's Indigenous Advisory Council