

Report 2021





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1. Background and Introduction

The CDU Bidjipidji School Camp program was initiated in 2021 to encourage First Nations students in the Northern Territory (NT) to seek opportunities to further their education after school. It has been designed to help students build confidence, provide support for continued aspirational growth and to deliver a culturally safe experience of living and studying on a university campus whilst residing away from their communities. 'Bidjipidji' is the Larrakia word for dragonfly and the name was gifted by Larrakia Elders to support the program. It is a very appropriate name as the inaugural Camp was held on Larrakia Country and the dragonfly is the symbol of enlightenment and illumination which the students experienced by being exposed to diverse aspects of university life for the first time.

The Camp was financially supported through Charles Darwin University (CDU) and the Australian Government's Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program; it was scheduled for 28 August to 1 September, under the uncertainty of COVID-19. Expressions of Interest applications were sent to 46 NT schools resulting in 35 students attending the inaugural Camp from seven different high schools, representing both government and independent schools. The Camp was impacted by two COVID lockdowns in Darwin, firstly when applications were due and secondly, as attendances were being confirmed. Future camps will now be well prepared and resourced to provide for any COVID-19 requirements or health orders as directed by the NT Government.

Participating students came from East Arnhem, Galiwin'ku (Elcho Island), Tiwi Islands, Katherine, and Central Australia. All transport to, from and during the Camp, all meals and social activities and on-campus accommodation were fully funded and were managed by a Working Group of CDU's First Nations Leadership staff. Several teachers and school supervisors accompanied the students and assisted with afterhours supervision. They also supported students with English as a second language, and helped the young people adjust to the different cultural settings and expectations. In addition, the students had access to three current CDU students, who were paid as casual staff to assist with program logistics, afterhours supervision, and to answer school student's questions.

Students attended information sessions and engagement activities provided by experienced external facilitators, and included topics like leadership, managing your physical and mental health, and identifying their future aspirations. They were provided engaging presentations by academic lecturers from various CDU Colleges and many opportunities to ask questions about courses and career pathways.

The students also had the opportunity to participate in several social activities and were asked to complete simple feedback forms each day, regarding their personal experiences and general questions about the Camp. Information from those forms, and other feedback is summarised in this report.

The Bidjipidji School Camp 2021 concluded with a graduation dinner and awards night where the students were presented with graduation certificates by Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mike Wilson, and Professor Reuben Bolt. Students who attended the Camp were congratulated on their participation and commended on their high levels of engagement with every experience afforded them over the five days of the Camp. They provided a strong foundation for future Bidjipidji students to follow in their footsteps. CDU's First Nations Leadership team is looking to grow the Bidjipidji program for First Nations students from across the Northern Territory and thank the participating schools for their support in our inaugural year.

"We are starting to change the narrative so that attending University becomes a realistic option for First Nations students in the future."

Deputy Vice-Chancellor First Nations Leadership, Professor Reuben Bolt.







2. Program Outline

The Bidjipidji School Camp was a fully supervised, four-night residential program. The Camp was managed and coordinated by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor First Nations Leadership (formerly Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership), in partnership with CDU Colleges and Divisions and included externally facilitated sessions and off-campus social activities. The Camp program ran at no cost to the students and CDU arranged all travel, accommodation, meals, and transport. It was run primarily at the Casuarina Campus in Darwin's northern suburbs and included visits to CDU's Waterfront Campus and other Darwin locales.



Saturday 28 August - Wednesday 1 September 2021

TIME	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	-	Breakfast (IHD) 7.30-8am (Multicultural Rm)	Breakfast (IHD) 7.30-8am	Breakfast (IHD) 7.30-8am	Breakfast (IHD) 7.30-8am
8.30-10.00	TRAVEL DAY Flights arrive	Pre-OPEN DAY ACTIVITIES (CDU Stadium, Marrara)	CDU Cas Campus Prof. Bolt LECTURE Prof Reuben Bolt (Red 6.1.01) (Tutorial groups)	OISS and SES Information sessions (Gurinbey Centre)	TRAVEL DAY (Flights depart) VET Tours
10.30	Morning Tea (Gurinbey, Blue 2)	Morning Tea (on site)	Morning Tea (Blue 2)	Morning Tea (Gurinbey)	Morning Tea (on site)
10.30-12.00	WELCOME & REGISTRATION/ CHECK IN Casuarina Campus (Gurinbey, Blue 2)	(CDU OPEN DAY (CDU Stadium, Marrara)	CDU Exercise & Sport Science (CDU Gym, Green 4)	CDU – Arts (Orange 11) CDU - Nursing (Blue 5, Rm 1.49 thru 1.52)	Alice Springs Program ENDS Casuarina VET campus
4 1	Lunch 12 – 1pm (On campus)	Lunch 12 – 1pm (Open Day)	Lunch 12 – 1pm (On campus)	Lunch 12 – 1pm (On campus)	Lunch 12 – 1pm (On campus)
1.00-2.30	WELCOME & REGISTRATION/ CHECK IN Casuarina Campus (Gurinbey, Blue 2)	2pm CDU Aspiration Talks and Workshops (Blue 2A)	CDU Waterfront Campus Business & Law (Waterfront Campus)	CDU - rotation Moot Court (Yellow 1) IT Virtual Reality	Casuarina VET campus Program ENDS
3 8	Afternoon Tea (on site)	Afternoon Tea (on-site)	Afternoon Tea (on-site)	Menzies – Health Hubs (Gurinbey & Blue 2)	
3.00-4.30	WELCOME & REGISTRATION/ CHECK IN Casuarina Campus (Gurinbey, Blue 2)	VISION BOARD Activities (Blue 2A)	CDU Waterfront Campus Business & Law (Waterfront Campus)	SHOPPING / FREE TIME (3-5pm) Casuarina Square	(Flights depart) (Coach departs) (Darwin pick-ups)
4.30-	Program BEGINS WTC 5pm-5.30 Welcome 5.30-6pm (Gurinbey, Blue 2)	CDU Cas Campus HOOPS N HEALTH Timmy Duggan (Basketball Court)	Darwin Waterfront Precinct WAVE POOL / WALK (4pm)	Prepare for Dinner event (5-6pm)	-
6-7.30	Dinner IHD Pizza/Takeaway Night Program Overview/ Expectations (IHD, Multicultural Rm)	Dinner BBQ (Basketball Court, Casuarina Campus)	Dinner Waterfront "Bella Pasta"	Dinner Graduation Orange 3 Casuarina Campus	-
7.30-	MOVIE Night (IHD, Multicultural Rm)*	LIVE MUSIC Night R&N (Blue 2, ceremonial area)	TRIVIA Night (Blue 2A)	ENTERTAINMENT# Night	-

*IHD is International House Darwin where the Students, their Teachers and CDU Supervisors will be residing #Pre and Post Event Surveys will be conducted with Students

3. Participating Schools and Students

Students from seven schools in remote and very remote communities participated in the Camp and identified themselves as being from seven different First Nations language groups.

Table 1 - School Profiles - 7 Participating schools

Participating schools	Location
Centralian Senior College	Alice Springs
Nhulunbuy High School	East Arnhem
Ramingining School	East Arnhem
Shepherdson College	Elcho Island
St Joseph's Catholic College	Katherine
Willowra School	Wirliyatjarrayi Community
Xavier Catholic College	Bathurst Island – Tiwi

Comments from Schools:

Ramingining School – "It is always great to hear that our students represented Ramingining School and Community in a strong way. The girls enjoyed their experience, and we look forward to working with you again in 2022."

Nhulunbuy High School — "Thank you for running such a great event. Staff and students who participated raved about it so thank you. I will enjoy looking at your Bidjipidji video — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sVbqC-lrUo

Table 2 – Senior First Nations Student Profiles – 35 Participating students

Year level	No. students	Gender	Number of schools the students came from	Age range
Year 10	9	F - 9 M - 0	4	15 to 17 years
Year 11	17	F-10 M-7	5	15 to 18 years
Year 12	9	F-6 M-3	6	17 to 18 years



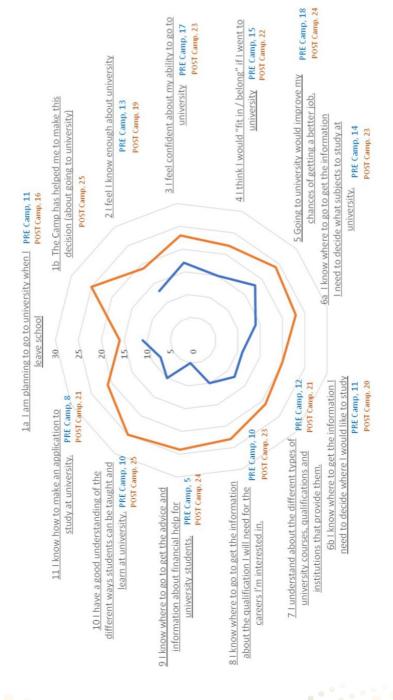
4. Understanding the Impact of the Camp for Students

Staff conducted two detailed evaluation surveys with students to measure any change in their perception of university and further education — one before program activities on Sunday morning (29 respondents) and another after the Camp at Graduation (31 respondents).

The following graph demonstrates the clear change in perception 'pre' and 'post' Camp. Students considered there to be an increase in all their abilities to pursue further education including their ability to find information, feeling like they belong at university and understanding more about the benefits of having a qualification.

Table 3 – Comparative PRE and POST Camp Survey Results

Bidjipidji School Camp, August 2021 - Comparative Pre and Post Survey Results



5. Daily Feedback – Results Summary

Students were asked to complete a simple, one-page Daily Feedback Form at the end of each day of the Program. This section outlines the program and feedback results from Days 1 to 4. (Day 5 was a travel day).

Day 1: Saturday 28 August 2021 - Arrival and Welcome

Students arrived at the CDU Casuarina campus on Saturday 28 August at staggered times throughout the day. They were required to register on arrival and received an information pack which included a Camp branded polo shirt, water bottle and cap as well as a finalised program outline.

The Day 1 program began with activities designed to put the students at ease. A Welcome to Country was provided by Larrakia Elder, Aunty Jeanneen McLennan, and students were able to meet and connect with CDU Social Work Lecturer Hannah Taino-Spick and her specially trained therapy dogs. Consultant Timmy Duggan and our Camp Manager Kim Robertson delivered sessions on Indigenous Leadership and introducing the students to the purpose of the Program. Students checked into International House Darwin, the onsite university accommodation, for the duration of the camp and were allocated a single room each. Students were also provided with a welcome gift pack which included toiletries and other small gift items.





Table 4 - Overall, how welcomed do you feel?

	Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Answer
3a	I feel welcomed to CDU and am starting to understand why I am here.	3	8	-	-	-	2
3b	I feel welcomed to the Office of First Nations Leadership/Gurinbey Centre and am starting to know First Nations staff and First Nations spaces on Campus.	4	8	-	-	-	1
3c	I feel welcomed to the International House Darwin (IHD) Accommodation, and I like my room.	3	8	1	-	-	1
Sub 1	Totals	10	24	1	0	0	4
Total	s	34		1	0		4
Total percentages from 35 responses		97.1%		2.9%	0%		

Students most enjoyed the food, friendly people and conversations, and the Larrakia stories. They least enjoyed 'too much talking' and some thought the accommodation was too far to walk and they would have liked more of a campus tour.

Student Comments: "Thank you for letting us see this for the first time."

"It's amazing."

Day 2: Sunday 29 August 2021 – CDU Open Day and Aspirations Day

The Camp was scheduled to coincide with CDU's Annual Open Day event which in 2021 was held at the CDU Marrara Stadium. Students visited the CDU Open Day all morning where they were able to experience an array of study areas and programs available to them. They were highly engaged at Open Day and were energised by their experiences. After their return to the Casuarina campus, students were involved in further interactive activities designed to grow their aspirations and leadership attributes. In these sessions, we sought two student leaders to be a conduit and spokesperson for students for the remainder of the Camp. Two students put themselves outside their comfort zones to volunteer for these roles - (Nhulunbuy High School) and (St Joseph's Catholic College Katherine) and they are to be commended for fulfilling their duties. Both students were supported by their peers – being elected the respective 'Student Choice' Award winners. We are exploring possibilities to further support School Student Leaders in coming years.

Table 5 - Overall, how much do you think today 'opened your eyes' to possibilities for your future?

	Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Answer
3a	I learned heaps today and know more than I did yesterday.	10	13	1	-	-	-
3b	I felt included in all the sessions and this helped me learn.	11	11	2	-	-	-
3c	I had fun at Open Day and learned about CDU courses.	11	13	-	-	-	-
3d	I learned about myself at the Aspirations activities.	8	15	1	-	-	-
3e	I enjoyed today's activities.	11	13	1	-	-	-
3f	I have started to think about what my future could be?	8	9	6	-	-	1
Sub	Totals	59	74	11	0	0	1
Tota	Totals		133		0		1
Total percentages from 144 responses		92.4%		7.6%	0%		

Students found the CDU Open Day visit and the evening singing and dancing sessions most enjoyable although overall they really enjoyed the whole day, except for (again) asking for less talking.

Student Comments: "It's really amazing out here and I'm looking forward to tomorrow."









Day 3: Monday 30 August 2021 – Presentations by Prof. Bolt and CDU College Lecturers

On Day 3 of the Camp the students started the day in a Lecture Theatre with Professor Bolt who delivered a presentation about 'Identity' followed by smaller tutorial groups. This was to provide students the full experience of a 'traditional-style' university lecture and tutorial session, and the content was relevant to the students' journeys, coming from many First Nations' backgrounds. Professor Bolt introduced the idea of 'theory' and its importance in higher education. They also participated in interactive sessions at the CDU gym delivered by staff from the College of Exercise and Sport Science.

The afternoon session at the Darwin Waterfront Campus was delivered by the Business and Law Lecturers from CDU's Asia Pacific College of Business & Law, and their team. Students workshopped business ideas around meeting a need for food in the students' hometown or community. This session was later voted as the best activity in the Student Choice Awards which were presented at the Graduation Dinner.

Table 6 - Professor Bolt's 'Identity' Lecture and College Classes

Session	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Answer
Professor Bolt: At this first session I learned about university Learning styles and more about Identity.	6	15	3	1	-	-
College of Exercise and Sports Science (CDU GYM): At the Gym session I learned a lot and had fun too.	8	14	2	-	1	-
College of Business and Law (Waterfront Campus): At the Waterfront Campus business activity, I learned a lot and had fun too.	6	14	4	1	-	-
Waterfront Precinct: I was happy to get some time for relaxing and enjoyed the activity options (Wave Pool or Shopping/Downtime).	12	12	1	-	-	-
Dinner: I enjoyed the Dinner at the Pasta and Pizza Restaurant.	10	11	2	-	-	1
After Dinner: I enjoyed having the Night to ourselves and did not want to have another session after dinner.	13	11	1	-	-	-
Sub Totals	55	77	13	2	1	1
Totals	132	2	13	3	3	1
Total percentages from 148 responses	89.2	!%	8.8%	2	%	

Student Comments: "I am looking forward to do something new in every session."

Table 7 – Student Experiences on Day 3

Experience	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Answer
I learned heaps today and know more than I did yesterday.	8	11	5	-	-	1
I felt included in all the sessions and this helped me learn.	7	13	4	-	-	1
I had fun today and enjoyed most of the activities.	9	13	2	-	-	1
I have started to think about what my future could be.	9	8	7	-	-	1
I pushed myself out of my 'comfort zone' today (to do something new)	7	8	7	2	-	1
Sub Totals	40	53	25	2	-	5
Totals	93		25	2		5
Total percentages from 120 responses	77.5	%	20.8%	1.7	' %	

Day 4: Tuesday 31 August 2021 – College (Discipline Area) Classes

Day 4 provided the students with a detailed orientation of the First Nations Student Services facilities in the Gurinbey Centre and offered choices between further College presentations in the disciplines of Nursing, Creative Arts, and Information Technology. The Gurinbey staff ran a session on understanding the links between the various courses of study and specific jobs, they also explained the various University entry pathways, and described the different types of services and support available for Indigenous students, such as Tutors, funding for travel and scholarships, and advised of our Alice Springs services centre, Akaltye. Tuesday also covered the topics of law through experiencing the 'Moot Court' and health activities through the Menzies Health Hub. Later that day, students enjoyed a period of free time at the local Casuarina Square Shopping Centre.

Day 4 also concluded the Bidjipidji School Camp with a Graduation Dinner for the students. Hosted in our campus theatre, it was a special, semi-formal experience with a warm welcome by Larrakia Academic in Residence, Aunty Bilawara Lee. The event offered a three-course meal, entertainment by Larrakia comedian and Master of Ceremonies, Uncle Richard Fejo, and the on-stage presentation of Graduation Certificates by the Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Mike Wilson and Professor Reuben Bolt. Students were also invited to vote in the Student Choice Awards for favourite College activity, Staff Member, Student Supervisor, and Student (male and female). After the formalities, the event closed with live DJ music and the opportunity for students to celebrate with each other. There were plenty of smiles!

Table 8 – Student Activities on Day 4

Session	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Answer
First Nations Student Success Team (Gurinbey): I feel welcome at Gurinbey and know that the ISS Team could assist me get through university.	16	11	3	-	1	-
CDU Arts Session: I enjoyed the Arts session and learned about opportunities to study arts.	10	12	3	-	-	6
OR CDU Nursing Session: I enjoyed the Nursing session and learned about opportunities to study Nursing.	14	4	6	-	-	7
CDU Courtroom Session (College of Business & Law): I enjoyed the Courtroom session and learned a lot about how the court works.	17	10	2	-	-	2
CDU IT Session: I enjoyed the Virtual Reality session and learned a lot.	14	10	7	-	-	-
Menzies Health Hubs: I enjoyed the health hubs and learned about my health.	12	14	3	v	·	2
Shopping and Free Time: I was very happy to have shopping time or free time.	20	7	-	-	-	4
Sub Totals	103	68	24	-	1	21
Totals	173	1	24	1		21
Total percentages from 196 responses	87.3	%	12.2%	0.5	%	





Table 9 – Student Experiences on Day 4

Experience	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Answer
I learned heaps today and know more than I did yesterday.	19	11	1	-	-	-
I felt included in all the sessions and this helped me learn.	17	13	1	-	-	-
I had fun today and enjoyed most of the activities.	16	13	2	-	-	-
I have started to think about what my future could be.	17	13	1	-	-	-
I pushed myself out of my 'comfort zone' today (to do something new)	16	13	1	1	-	-
Sub Totals	85	63	6	1	-	-
Totals	148	3	6	1		0
Total percentages from 155 responses	95.5	%	3.9%	0.6	3%	

Student Comments: "Was a deadly camp and hope to be here next time."

"Learnt a lot at the Nursing session and loved the Gurinbey walkthrough."

"Free time could have been longer."

"I really loved the experience here, the workplaces and the dorms to stay in. The teachers were really nice."

"It was a good experience to have and I'm glad I came."

"Having the student supervisors really helped to ask questions and they answered honestly like how when uni gets bad how to get through it. So having more of them on the camp with honest reports about how uni runs."

"I really enjoyed all the lessons today."

6. Student Reflection Survey (via Survey Monkey)

Two weeks after the students had returned home, they were invited to complete a 65 question "Reflection Survey" administered through Survey Monkey. The questions were divided into seven sections; Camp Registration, Food on the Camp, Camp Accommodation (IHD), Activity Facilitators, Evening Sessions and Fun Time, Cultural Views and Share Your Opinion With Us. Of the 35 students who attended the Camp, only 15 completed the survey despite the incentive prize draw of an Apple iPad and Air pods.

Table 10 – Student Reflection Survey (via Survey Monkey)

Range of Questions in each Section	Survey Sections	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Q 1 - Q 10	Camp Registration - was welcoming and well done.	49.7%	34.9%	13.4%	1.3%	0.7%
Q 11 - Q 20	Food on the Camp - was enjoyable	55.9%	33.8%	7.4%	3.0%	-
Q 20 - Q 32	Camp Accommodation (IHD) - was comfortable and safe.	52.3%	34.4%	7.7%	5.1%	0.5%
Q 33 - Q 39	Activity Facilitators - provided relevant programs.	46.1%	36.4%	16.6%	1.0%	-
Q40 - Q 49	Evening sessions and fun time - were enjoyable.	62.0%	32.7%	4.7%	0.7%	-
Q 50 - Q 62	Cultural Views - were important and provided throughout the camp.	50.0%	35.2%	12.6%	1.6%	0.5%

Additional Key Results from the Student Reflection Survey

- Students said they were warmly welcomed to the CDU Campus upon arrival with 84.6% of students indicating they 'Strongly Agree or Agree' that they received all the information they needed to participate in the Camp.
- Students were overall very happy with the on-campus accommodation at International House Darwin (IHD). 86.7% indicated they enjoyed having a room to themselves and enjoyed activities in the IHD Common Room. Only 5.1% of students were not happy with the accommodation indicating they would have liked the girls' rooms to be the same room configuration as the boys' rooms.
- Over all 82.5% of students either 'Strongly Agree or Agree' the activities and information sessions were beneficial, engaging, and relevant.
- 94.7% of students enjoyed the evening and fun activities included in the Camp.
- Consistent feedback provided by students was that there should have been more down time because the program content meant the days were very long.
- Sharing culture was important with 78.57% of students saying they would have liked even more time in the program to share their culture and to talk about their community, have more time for cultural activities and time to sit and talk with other students.
- 92.86% of students indicated they applied to come to the Camp because it was for First Nations students only and it was important to them that the Camp managers, presenters, and student supervisors were mainly First Nations people.





Student Responses Summing Up 'What they got out of the Camp':

"It was life changing for me truly coming from Alice Springs it really is different. It has opened my eyes to see where I want to be in the future and what I want to study. I felt more comfortable in Darwin than I do in my hometown. I hope I will have the chance to improve and come and study."

"This camp helped me get a better understanding on how and what university may like. It also helped me to see all the opportunities there are to help me get through uni and the process."

"I am so privileged to be one of the many Aboriginal students being picked for this trip. I liked all of the activities and free time we had. If I get the chance I will definitely, do it again."

"It was fun and enjoyable. I learned a lot of stuff."

"A good experience with good people that helped me think about my future."

"The camp was fun, interesting and it was good to make new friends from other communities and towns. I enjoyed the Camp."

"I had fun and enjoyed every bit of it and made new friends."

"I enjoyed the whole camp learning new things about future jobs and we had to meet different people from different community."

"We had a lot of fun and learnt more about the Larrakia people."

"It was fun and learned a lot about Uni."

"What I got out of the camp was how CDU runs or how universities run and what lectures are like."

"Bidjipidji Camp was fun, interesting, tiring and pushed me out of my comfort zone."

"I loved the fact that the Bidjipidji Camp involved cultural activities and for hiring Aboriginal people. Another thing would be being to have our free time."

7. Key Learnings

As our inaugural camp, we were very keen to make sure the experience was a positive one for students, and to learn as much as we could to build a strong program for next year. In addition to surveying all the students, we also offered numerous opportunities for CDU staff, external facilitators, student supervisors and school representatives to provide feedback, raise any issues or positive commentary. The Camp Working Group is considering all the collated information to deliver a stronger program next year. Some of our key learnings from 2021 are listed below.

Overall

The Camp was designed to raise the aspirations of First Nations students, and to positively affect their perception of their ability to further their education. The Camp was very successful in terms in meeting this objective. The Camp attracted a great cohort of First Nations school students from across the Northern Territory, bringing them together to experience what University can offer them. Students remained engaged the for the entire program, and all students graduated. Feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, and the challenges identified are ones that we will seek to address moving forward.

The Program

The Program this year was jam-packed and designed to keep students busy and engaged. Some amendments to the Program in the future will address student feedback that suggested more campus orientation and down time on Day One as a travel day, and more regular downtime throughout the Program. In terms of the activities and information sessions that were on offer, students enjoyed them all, including the Open Day they attended on Sunday. For this reason, future Camps will be also timed to coincide with the CDU Open Day which is held annually in August.

Participating Schools

Overwhelmingly it was regional and remote school students that attended the Camp. Larger schools will be included in the future and engagement will begin within the first few weeks of school commencing 2022.

First Nations Focus

It was clear before, during and after the Camp, that students appreciated the focus on them as First Nations learners, many citing this as the main reason for attending. Students appreciated being hosted by the University's First Nations teams, with support from CDU Student Supervisors, and having First Nations facilitators involved in much of the Program delivery. We will continue this into future Camps. Students have identified they would like more time to get to know each other and each other's communities, so we will endeavour to provide more time for these important peer discussions. They valued the warm Welcome to Country speeches, smoking ceremony, and opportunities to visit Larrakia country and beaches. We plan to include more time and activities with local Traditional Owners in future camps.

Accompanying teachers or school appointed supervisors

It was fantastic to meet and include teachers and supervisors as camp participants. Their involvement was important to some students as they gained confidence in the new environment. Their insight and feedback have provided us valuable planning information for the future.

Accommodation

The students enjoyed the autonomy of having a single room to themselves and indicated they felt safe on campus. Students who were accommodated in 'Block 14' (the boys) valued the communal kitchen and living spaces and the increased sense of community and belonging this afforded them.

Meals and catering

All meals and snacks were catered for, and any special dietary requirements and allergies were taken into consideration as per the registration process. Feedback from the students will be used to alter breakfast arrangements for future camps, but overall students have indicated they were happy with both the volume and quality of food. Future students will be reminded to carry their own water bottles daily, and to be responsible for hydration – there are water coolers on campus.

Schools Engagement

Schools will be notified of 2022 Camp dates and application/registration processes within the first term of 2022.



Date Claimer for 2022 Camp

Based on the success of this camp and the feedback, we are proud to advise the 2022 Bidjipidji School Camp will again be held in alignment with the CDU Open Day - planned in 2022 for Sunday 28 August.

A Date Claimer has been set for the Program to run across Saturday 27 August 2022 (afternoon) until Wednesday 31 August 2022 inclusive.

Proposed travel days will be Saturday 27 August and Thursday 1 September 2022.

8. Acknowledgements

Thanks again to all participants, presenters, service providers and CDU staff who made this first Bidjipidji School Camp a success!

CDU Bidjipidji Working Group Members, First Nations Leadership staff

Professor Reuben Bolt,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Kim Robertson, Camp Manager,
Director
Ann Macabuhay, Business Manager
Emma Fowler-Thomason,
Camp Coordinator
Janette Collins, Camp Administrator
Tony Connors, Camp Operations
and Logistics

External Facilitators

Timmy Duggan Casey Taylor Hannah Taino-Spick Bolt family (Reuben, Nakia and Savannah)

Larrakia Elders

Aunty Bilawara Lee Aunty Jeanneen McLennan Uncle Richard Fejo Uncle Tony Duwun Lee Trent Lee

CDU Student Supervisors

Joshua Sells Lok Wang Jens Cheung Tahleisha Warrior

CDU College Presenters

(Exercise and Sports Science)
Dr Daniel Gahreman
Dr Liz Grylls
Dr Gabriela Minigo
Dr Josephine Muthami

(Business and Law)

Professor David Low Dr Ulrike Kachel Dr Guzyal Hill Dr Susan Bird James Parfitt (Fejo)

(Indigenous Futures, Education and the Arts)

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