

# 5 Year Report

## NORTHERN INSTITUTE

People. Policy. Place

2017-2021



NORTHERN  
INSTITUTE

People. Policy. Place.



CHARLES  
DARWIN  
UNIVERSITY  
AUSTRALIA

## Acknowledgement to Country

**Northern Institute acknowledges and respects the many Australian First Nations' traditional custodians of the lands upon which our people and representatives work on.**

**We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Larrakia who are the traditional custodians of the lands upon which Northern Institute is located, Charles Darwin University, Casuarina campus.**

**We acknowledge Australian First Nations peoples' long tradition of sustaining their communities and environments over thousands of years. They are the first educators and first innovators. They are the holders of knowledge that makes an important contribution to the improvement of our local, national and global communities.**

**We extend our respect to Elders - past, present and emerging - and to all First Nations people.**

We wish to advise that these pages may contain images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are deceased.

### **Northern Institute 5 Year Report 2017-2021**

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#### **Northern Institute**

We are driven to make positive differences to communities, society and policy through robust and independent research.

#### **Artwork**

We acknowledge the artist Marina Strocchi for use of her artwork and artwork elements from 'Mystery Train' 2007 for our identifier, marketing and promotional materials. The original artwork is located in the Northern Institute office in Darwin, NT.



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# FOREWORD

## Committed to excellence and research that makes a difference.

Research that matters is underpinned by a deep understanding of partners' and communities strengths and challenges, understanding complexity in regional and remote areas and a clear focus on accurate, at times challenging, analysis for communities, industry and governments. Much of the Northern Institute's research is recognised by a commitment to co-design that ensures research is undertaken in ways that strengthen voices that are often unheard and develop the evidence that supports effective decision making.

It is a privilege to commend this 5-year report, a moment to look back at our commitment to helping partners ask difficult questions, have the evidence to challenge assumed knowledge and make good evidence based decisions. Through all of the challenges over this time, our researchers and research students have demonstrated a commitment and resilience that is commendable and valued by partners, the researchers who have gone before us and those who are the next generation.



**Professor Ruth Wallace**  
Dean - College of Indigenous Futures, Education and the Arts  
Director - Northern Institute





“

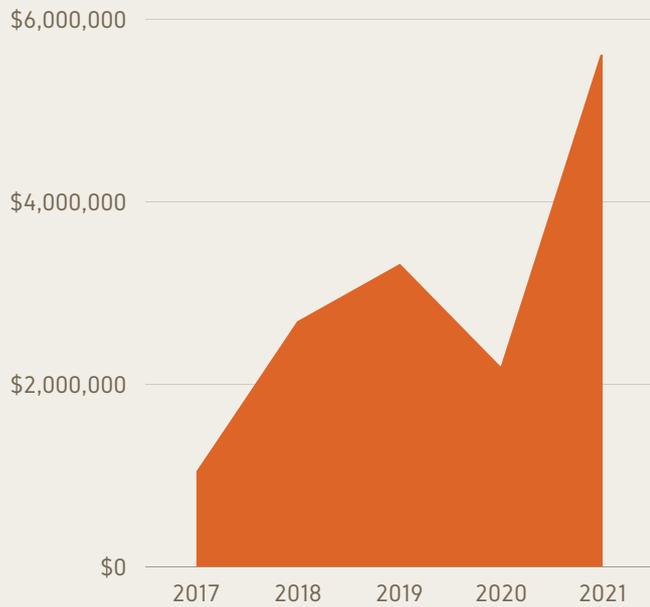
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”



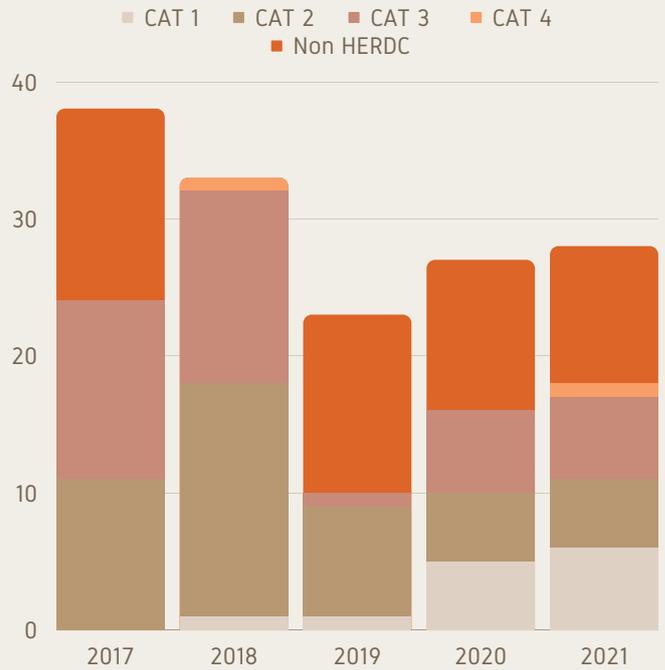
# AT A GLANCE 2017-2021

## AWARDED PROJECTS 2017 - 2021



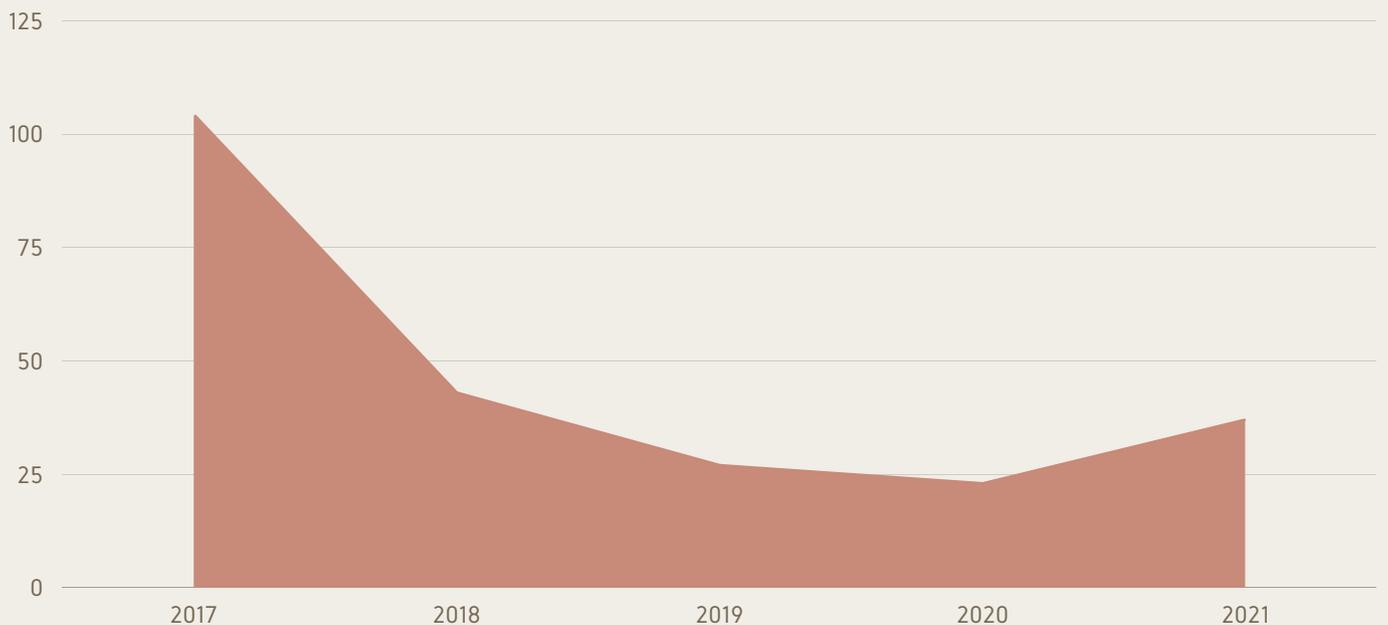
Growth was tracking upward from 2017 until COVID-19 impacted project delivery in 2020. Northern Institute fully recovered in 2021 recording a substantial 158% increase in awarded grant funding.

## FUNDING SOURCE 2017 - 2021



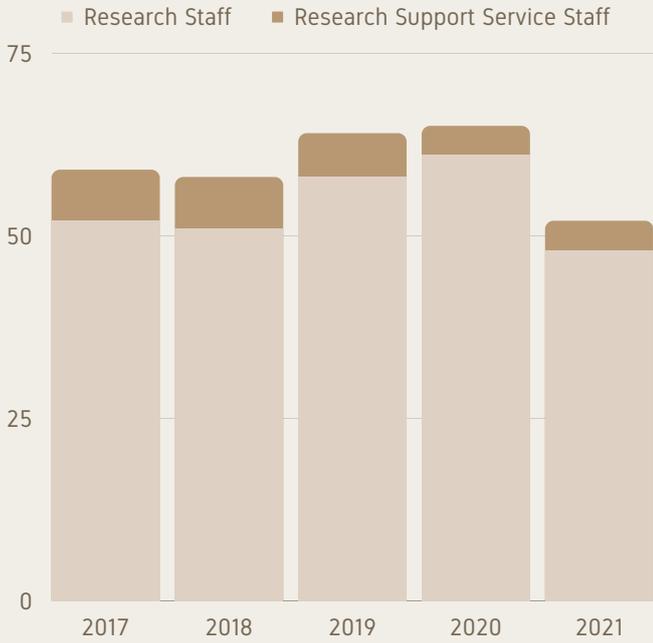
CAT 1 : Australian Competitive Grant R&D income  
 CAT 2 : Other Public Sector R&D income  
 CAT 3 : Industry and other R&D income  
 CAT 4 : CRC R&D income  
 Non HERDC Income

## RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATIONS 2017 - 2021

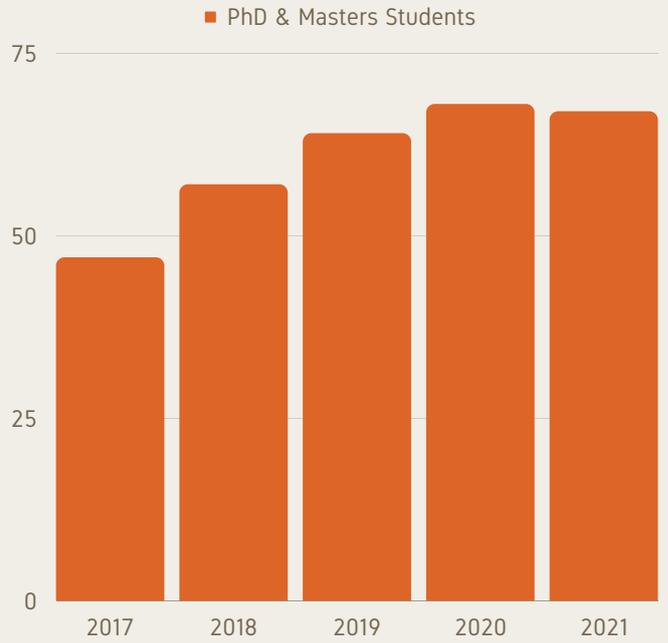


Researcher publications declined during the period of CDU's transition from a Faculty system to Colleges but revived in 2020 and has shown consistent growth since.

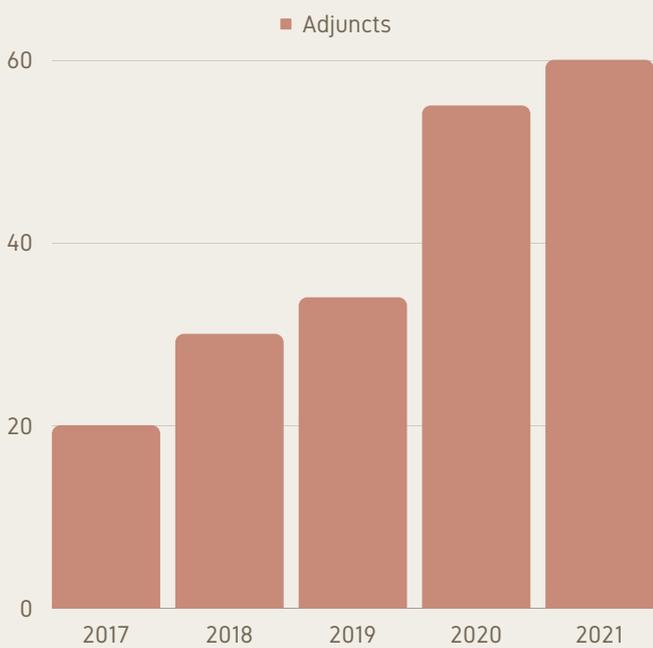
### RESEARCH STAFF 2017 - 2021



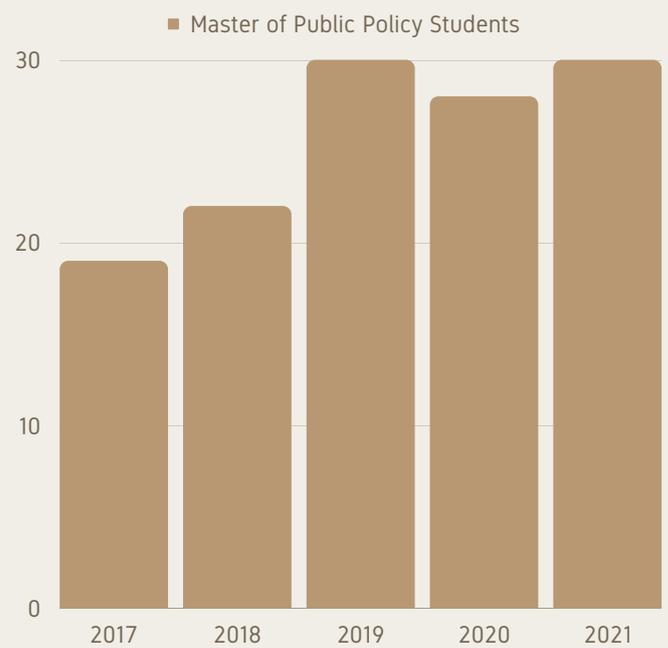
### HDR STUDENTS 2017 - 2021



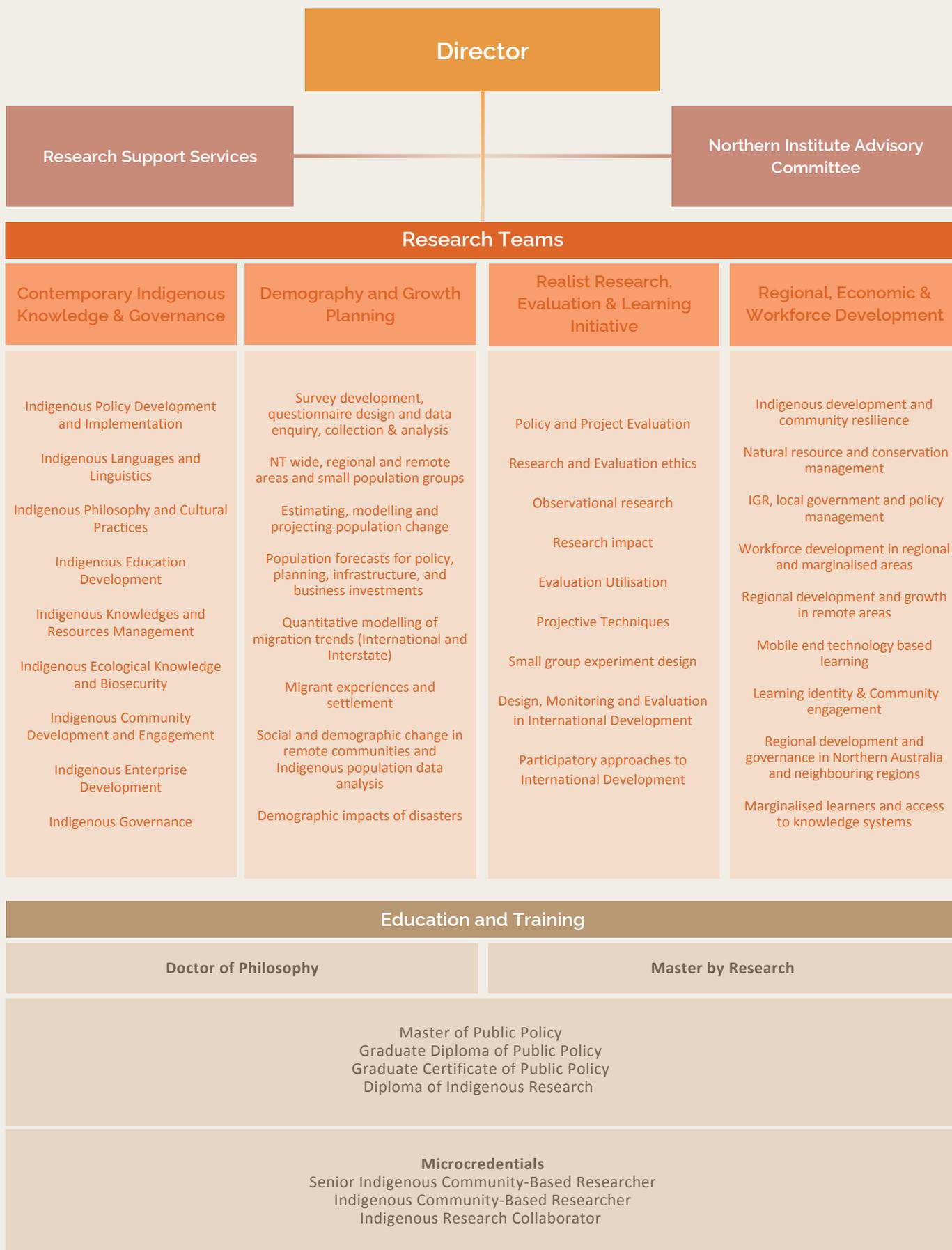
### HONORARIES 2017 - 2021



### MPP STUDENTS 2017 - 2021



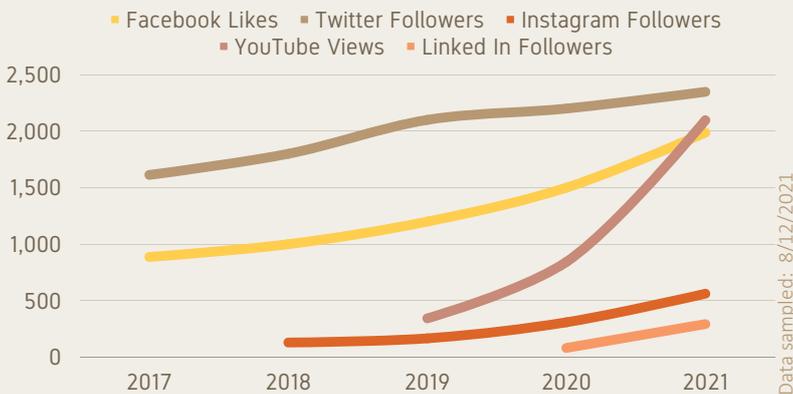
# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



# COMMUNICATION & REACH

## SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Northern Institute's online presence and engagement have steadily increased as new social media channels have become available. Our online community can access recent publications, business updates, milestones and events through our Facebook, Twitter, Linked In and Instagram and find our resource library of People. Policy. Place Seminars through our YouTube and Vimeo channels. We aim to remain agile and responsive in our communications across all platforms as it maintains critical connections to regional, remote and local networks.



**Twitter**  
Over 38,758 page visits in 2021



**Facebook**  
94,024 page reach in 2021



**Instagram**  
Over 500 new followers since 2018



**LinkedIn**  
1900 post clicks in 2021



**YouTube**  
18,270 minutes watched since 2019

## MEDIA AND NEWSPAPER FEATURES

**We are professional fire watchers, and we're astounded by the scale of fires in remote Australia right now**



Rohan Fisher article on NT Savanna fires & traditional land management practices | The Conversation | 7 Dec 2021

**Staying, coming or going?**



The Demography team discuss migration during COVID-19 | National Tribune | 22 Sep 2020

**Project develops drone protocol**



Jen Macdonald discusses First-Nations led project on appropriate use of technology on country | Koori Mail | 1 Dec 2021

**The important role of supervising teachers to improve Indigenous educational outcomes**



Tracy Woodroffe article on pre-service teachers | Education Matters | 1 May 2021



# NI STAFF 2021

## PROFESSORS

Steven Bird  
Michael Christie  
Jennifer Deger  
Rolf Gerritsen  
Helen Verran  
Ruth Wallace  
Gill Westhorp

## ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Payi Linda Ford  
Elaine L awurpa Maypilama  
Anne Lowell  
Andrew Taylor  
Pascal Tremblay  
Emma Williams  
Kerstin Zander

## DOCTORS

Matthew (Mat) Bettinson  
Miranda Booth  
Nicolas Bullo  
Sigurd Dyrting  
Johanna Funk  
Kate Golebiowska  
Jackie Gould  
Rachel Groom  
Kathy (Gotha) Guthadjaka AM  
Jonatan Lassa  
Judith Lovell  
Jen Macdonald  
Deepika Mathur  
Kellie Pollard  
Michaela Spencer  
Akhilesh Surjan  
Tracy Woodroffe

## RESEARCHERS & RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Emily Armstrong (PhD in progress)	Sebastian Lowe
Alicia Boyle (PhD in progress)	Brenda Muthamuluwuy
Joy Bulkanhawuy	Kerryn O'Rourke
Victoria Baskin Coffey	Faye Parriman
Jodi Cowdery (PhD in progress)	Jan Salmon
Elizabeth Creed	Fiona Shalley (PhD in progress)
Cara Donohue	Adam Gulungulk Waŋambi
Rohan Fisher (PhD in progress)	Gawura Waŋambi
Justine Gawinygawiny	Paul Gurrumuruwuy
Yasunori Hayashi (PhD in progress)	Wunungmurra
David Karacsonyi (PhD in progress)	Pawinee Yuhun

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF

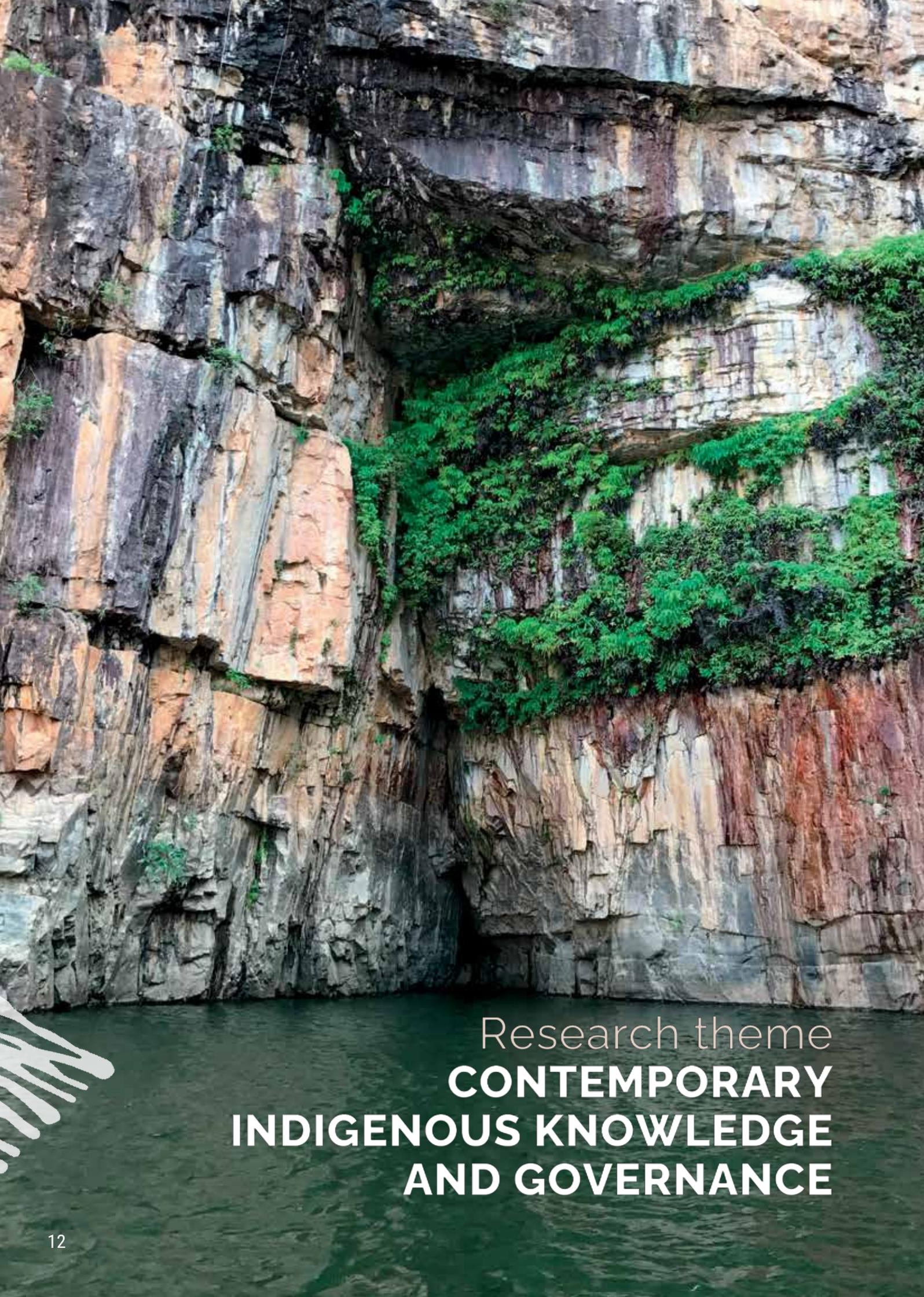
Katrina Britnell  
Mary Ann Maddox  
Aravinda Senarath  
Lani Buxton Shepherd

# HONORARIES

Marie Carla Dany Adone  
Anthony Barnes  
Delyna Baxter  
Ritu Bhatia  
Harry Blagg  
Tom Bolton  
Christian Book  
Matthew Campbell  
Michael Cawthorn  
Lawrence Cram  
Eileen Cummings  
Allan Dale  
Endre Danyi  
Kashmira Dave  
Jocelyn Davies  
Samantha Disbray  
Christine Doran  
Alison Elliot  
Jacquelyn Escarcha  
Lyn Fasoli  
Simon Feeny  
Emily Ford  
Clayton Fredericksen  
Heather Gibb  
Kuntal Goswami

Sathyapriya Govindarajulu  
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Sigmund Gronmo  
John Guenther  
Ilonka Guse  
Mark Guyula  
Ian William Hance  
Rebecca Hardwick  
Sharon Harwood  
Andrew Hawkins  
Martin Jarvis  
Winsome Jobling  
Geraldine Katz  
Hitesh Khanna  
Julian King  
Steve Larkin  
Tess Lea  
Glynis Lee  
Joel Liddle  
Kamal Mahmud  
Momoe Malietoa von Reiche  
Alexandra Marley  
Supriya Mathew  
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Charles Michaelis

Ann Moi-Bussy  
Glenn Morrison  
Jagath Pathirage  
Elizabeth Povinelli  
Bruce Prideaux  
Alison Reedy  
Jan Richardson  
Catherine Robinson  
Damien Short  
Henry Smith  
Dermot Smyth  
Lisa Stefanoff  
John Stoney  
Jennyfer Taylor  
Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann  
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel  
Ana Vuin  
Virginia Westwood  
Barbara White  
Robyn Williams  
Tom Wilson  
Benxiang Zeng  
Donald Zoellner



Research theme  
**CONTEMPORARY  
INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE  
AND GOVERNANCE**



**VISION** Collaborative approaches to working across Aboriginal and Western knowledge systems that help stakeholders to ask difficult questions and achieve shared community, industry and government goals.

**CAPABILITY** The Contemporary Indigenous Knowledge & Governance (CIKG) team has worked closely with Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge and governance authorities from Northern Territory communities for over 30 years. Collaborating with civil society and government organisations, the CIKG research theme examines organisational knowledge and cultural practices while designing new institutions and governance practices. Team members have many years of experience working with Aboriginal knowledge and cultural authorities and greatly respect their philosophies, knowledge practices and languages. Collaborators include Indigenous enterprises, organisations and corporations across the NT and Australia. Language and cultural renewal in an intergenerational passage (often exploring the potential of digital technologies) is particularly interesting for the CIKG theme. The cross-generational renewal can allow multiple generations to maintain and revitalise languages and cultures, formally and informally, through consultation and collaborative design (facilitated by CIKG team members).

The CIKG team works collaboratively with Indigenous knowledge authorities (including internationally in Europe and Africa) to build governance and leadership capacities in remote communities. The team focus on specific local issues, respecting community knowledge and cultural practices as they work in engagement and agreement-making practices. They consult with communities and across all levels of government to identify and support successful and productive local practices, which are often invisible in mainstream policy research. CIKG also acknowledges that NI's location within the northern region provides a further focus for their knowledge and cultural collaborations. Members foster and strengthen national and international strategic links between people, ideas, institutions, places and contexts, seeking to understand how research and service delivery work can be embedded as they are in changing political economies and policy areas in the northern region.

**IMPACT** Our researchers have worked closely with Aboriginal knowledge authorities on collaborative research to explore Aboriginal knowledge, workforce, government, and language practices and applied these processes to supporting change in policy development and implementation and education programs.



Research theme  
**DEMOGRAPHY AND  
GROWTH PLANNING**

**VISION** Through applied research, we strive to understand the causes and consequences of population change in the Northern Territory and other sparsely populated areas to make positive differences in communities, society and policy with robust, independent research.

**CAPABILITY** The Demography and Growth Planning (DGP) team are experts in analysing, modelling and understanding the causes and consequences of population change. We have invited members of the advisory group for the National Centre for Population to sit on the ABS's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Demographic Statistics Expert Advisory Group and its Population and Social Statistics Advisory Group. Our research was used to develop the Northern Territory Population Growth Strategy, and in 2019, we conducted the largest ever population survey for the Northern Territory – The Territory and Me.

Our team are recognised experts in collecting, analysing and modelling demographic and socio-economic data. The explanation for and anticipation of future population dynamics are at the core of our research and extend across the critical fields of demography, economics, labour studies, history and sociology. Collaboration and partnership mark our approach and include academic research and project work with other universities, government agencies, non-government agencies and research organisations from around the world that explore the significant population issues affecting communities, regions and their peoples. This work contributes to better-informed policy and decision-making, improving economic and social outcomes.

## **IMPACT**

- In collaboration with the Northern Territory Department of Treasury and Finance, we have developed a world-first population projections model for separate projections of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous futures. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has adopted some methods developed for this model.
- Our research helps drive the national and Northern Territory policy agenda. We sit on several national advisory forums, including as expert advisors to the National Centre for Population and ABS Expert Advisory Groups.
- 'The Territory and Me' research investigated population drivers affecting the Territory and included a large survey with 5,000 respondents. Findings are being used to help develop initiatives to 'rebound' from the COVID-19 pandemic and are published on The Territory and Me website [www.theterritoryandme.cdu.edu.au](http://www.theterritoryandme.cdu.edu.au).



Research theme

**REALIST RESEARCH EVALUATION  
AND LEARNING INITIATIVE**



**VISION** The Realist Research Evaluation and Learning Initiative (RREALI) contributes to the effectiveness of policies and programs by developing, teaching, using and promoting realist research and evaluation (RR&E) methodology and methods. It aims to become a world-class Realist Research Centre, working collaboratively with research partners, communities and industries to improve understanding of complex policy and program issues and their outcomes in diverse contexts.

**CAPABILITY** The team undertakes research and evaluation in health, housing, education and training, community services, Indigenous affairs and international development. We also provide training and mentoring in evaluation and evaluative thinking; using program theory for program design, development, monitoring and evaluation; commissioning evaluations; and disseminating and using findings. We also use capacity-building approaches, gradually handing responsibility to research and evaluation partners where appropriate. We pride ourselves on developing innovative methods suitable for particular research or evaluation questions and use applied projects to develop and refine methods.

Realist methodologies develop an understanding of how and why policies and programs cause different outcomes in different contexts. This knowledge can then inform decisions about, for example, the appropriate mix of programs for different contexts, how to tailor programs to other contexts, and whether – and how – to scale programs out. Realist approaches can be used in almost all forms of evaluative process, outcome, impact, and economic evaluation in more or less participatory ways and in synthesising existing evidence and other kinds of applied social research. We also support the development of realist research and evaluation in other parts of the University, Australia, and other countries.

**IMPACT** Stakeholders have used our evaluations to identify the outcomes and assess the value of their programs to program users, inform funding decisions, and modify or redesign programs and policies. Partner universities have established, or are establishing, realist research methods curricula and realist research programs.

RREALI also seeks to extend existing markets and build new markets for the University in evaluation, policy and program-related research by:

- Developing realist research and evaluation methods and tools
- Developing evaluation and research in markets new to the University
- Building the University's capacity for high-quality evaluation and high-impact research
- Developing a supportive environment for evidence-informed policy and programs by building the capacity of partners and collaborators



Research theme  
**REGIONAL, ECONOMIC AND  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**



**VISION** The Regional, Economic & Workforce Development (REWD) team work with stakeholders to explore the challenges and opportunities for planning and implementing an integrated, sustainable region and understanding economic development in diverse contexts and conditions.

**CAPABILITY** REWD's expertise and capabilities include workforce planning and development, local and regional economic modelling, economic evaluation and advice on Northern development projects. Industry-based research supports enterprises and agencies to improve productivity in complex operational scenarios.

The REWD team examines working environments in different geographic spaces, as well as changing policy environments, with a focus on northern and central Australia and South-East Asian contexts. Group members have demonstrated research capabilities linked to workforce and industry development across the following industrial sectors: agriculture extension, food industries, waste, tourism, international education and migration, health workforce planning, the Arts markets, government services delivery, and South-East Asian economic cooperation.

Researchers examine the ways systems intersect in areas such as

- The pathways between learning and workforce systems
- The connections between micro-enterprises and multinational business, regional development policy and equitable economic futures
- Issues of migration and engagement of socially and economically marginalised people and the delivery of high-quality training provision in regional and remote areas
- Resource use and waste generated

**IMPACT** Our researchers have assisted regional stakeholders to understand the key issues and provided analyses that inform decision-making in regional planning for unlocking regional labour markets, trilateral development of economies in northern Australia and South East Asia, Aboriginal engagement in scalable development, adaptation to a range of environmental factors, managing land and sea resources to promote social co-benefits for investors, policy people and traditional owners.

# NORTHERN INSTITUTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Northern Institute Advisory Committee (NIAC) is made up of local, national and internationally renowned academics and research experts and headed by the Honourable Sally Thomas AC, Former Administrator of the Northern Territory (2011-2014), Chancellor of Charles Darwin University (2010-2016) and an NT Supreme Court Judge (1992-2009).

NIAC assists the Northern Institute (NI) mission to undertake significant and high-quality interdisciplinary research, encourage and support local, national and international partnerships, enable public intellectual commentary, expand regional capacity that leads to research of significance and realises the region's potential.

The committee provides overarching advice to the Director regarding NI's strategic research directions and connections. This advice informs NI's research planning and development activities, which the NIAC monitors.

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS



## **The Honourable Sally Thomas AC**

Administrator of the Northern Territory (2011-2014)  
Chancellor of Charles Darwin University (2010-2016)  
NT Supreme Court Judge (1992-2009)



## **Lenore Dembski**

Larrakia Authority  
Owner/Operator, Paperbark Woman (current)  
Project Manager, Top End Health Service (2021)  
Principal Program Officer, Northern Territory Working Women's Centre (2017)  
Manager Records and Information Management, NT Department of Education (2013-2016)  
Business Development Coordinator, Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledges & Education (2012-2013)



## **Petrarca C. Karetji**

Head, Pulse Lab Jakarta  
Senior Advisor - Knowledge Sector Initiative (Indonesia), RTI International (2016-2019)  
Executive Director, Bina Darma Foundation (2016)  
Director, Public Sector Change Leadership & Knowledge Management (2015-2016)  
Senior Advisor, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2013-2016)



## **Professor Lenore Manderson AM**

Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Medical Anthropology, School of Public Health, The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa (2014-present)  
Visiting Distinguished Professor in Environmental Studies Institute at Brown for Environment and Society, Providence, RI, USA (2014-2019) current Honorary Professor  
Hillel Friedland Senior Fellow, The University of the Witwatersrand (2008)  
Honorary Professor, The University of the Witwatersrand (2004-2013)



## **Professor Peter Sköld**

Advisor to Vice-Chancellor & Master of Ceremony, Umeå University, Sweden (2003-present)  
Chair, The University of the Arctic (UARctic)  
Former Executive Director of the Arctic Research Centre and  
Senior Researcher, Várdduo - Centre for Sámi Research, Umeå University