



CDU-NTG PhD Scholarship Opportunity



Making sense of social capital concepts in the context of Northern Territory First Nations communities by engaging with culturally relevant indicators of social wellbeing

3 years full-time appointment | \$32,192pa | Casuarina Campus or Alice Springs

About the Opportunity

The concept of social capital has, since the 1970s, been used to describe and measure the value of social connectedness in transferring resources of power within or between social groups. In the realm of social policy, the possession and distribution of social capital has been understood as a central feature of communities that cooperate for mutual benefit. However, while social capital remains a useful term, it is highly culturally bound. In a Northern Territory context, indicators of social capital have relevance to current government policy on local decision-making frameworks, which facilitate working relationships between First Nations communities and government agencies. Assessments of social capital conventionally include measures of community functioning, social networks, participation, trust, and shared goals; but such 'indicators' are not universally meaningful. The candidate will work collaboratively with several NT Aboriginal communities, government agencies and established CDU researchers to investigate the cultural applicability of employing social capital concepts in assessing social outcomes in Aboriginal communities, and as relevant to Aboriginal people. In the process, they will explore whether mainstream concepts of social capital can meaningfully intersect with Aboriginal knowledges and socio-cultural understandings and be integrated within a population wide Social Capital Index.

The opportunity will also include a minimum three-month internship with a research end-user to gain experience and develop connections.

Scholarship Details

The successful applicant will receive a Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship which will include a \$32,192 (tax exempt and indexed annually) and a RTP Fee Offset for the tuition fees. For further information on the RTP Scholarship conditions, please visit [Higher Degree by Research Scholarships at CDU](#).

Eligibility

The successful applicant must:

- be an Australian Citizen, an Australian Permanent Resident; or a New Zealand Citizen
- meet the PhD course entry requirements at CDU outlined [here](#).

About You

To be considered for this opportunity you should have:

- First Class Honors (or equivalent) in a relevant social science or humanities field such as, sociology, anthropology, human geography, population demography/statistics, public policy, Indigenous studies, or other aligned discipline.
- Experience working with Indigenous communities (preferably in the NT) or demonstrated capacity to do so.
- Strong commitment to codesign with partner communities and in collaboration with First Nations authority.

How to Apply

To submit an expression of interest please send the following to Professor Kim Humphery at kimberley.humphery@cdu.edu.au.

- Brief cover letter outlining your interest and relevant experience.
- Brief Curriculum Vitae
- Academic transcript

For further enquiries please contact Michaela Spencer on Kim Humphery on 0418177715 or email kimberley.humphery@cdu.edu.au.