CDU-NTG
Working Together

THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
The establishment of the Partnership Agreement has heralded a new way of working together such that a vibrant university can grow for the benefit of Territorians and the NT economy. The cooperative manner in which the University and Government agencies work together at the highest level has succeeded in attracting significant funding from the Commonwealth for Indigenous literacy ($8.2 million), ICT infrastructure ($1.75 million) and a higher education centre in Alice Springs ($2 million Commonwealth, and $2.5 Million NT Government).

Collaboration on a smaller scale has been achieved in the co-funding and appointment of senior academic staff in areas of tropical knowledge, health and governance.

Secondment of Government staff to the University in areas of social and policy research has been pivotal in creating a nucleus of intellectual capacity that has then attracted other funding, in particular an Ian Potter Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship and a senior researcher in education economics.

Other collaborative activities include an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant investigating health effects of dry season atmospheric smoke, and two major research infrastructure grant applications, worth $650,000 if funded.

The strong leadership of the Peak Group has enabled the Partnership to flourish in this first year of operation. Not only has a strong and diverse range of schedules been developed and approved, each of these schedules is now being reviewed to ensure that the desired outcomes are robust, measurable and continue to be aligned with the four objectives of the Partnership.

Following the retirement of Mr Barry Chambers from the NT Public Sector after 37 years, Mr Mike Burgess (Chief Executive, Department of Business, Infrastructure and Resource Development) has joined the Peak Group.

MAKING IT WORK
The Northern Territory Government and Charles Darwin University Partnership Agreement identifies:

- That individual schedule working parties have the delegation and authority to assign human, financial and infrastructure resources and enter into appropriate agreements to achieve schedule outcomes

GOALS
To nurture a dynamic and sustainable partnership that brings mutual benefit to both parties and the future development of the Territory.

Under the Partnership Agreement twenty-four schedules have been created under the four main objectives. The four objectives involve: Growing Resident Capacity in the Northern Territory; Meeting Government Needs; Reorganising the University to Better Meet Territory Needs and Particular Projects Enabling Indigenous Economic Development.

A website has been established to provide public access to Partnership information, including the Agreement and the schedules. For more information regarding the Partnership Agreement, please visit www.cdu.edu.au/government

Members of the Peak Group who are pictured left, include: Back, left to right: Mr Don Zoellner, Professor Charles Webb, Mr Peter Plummer, Mr Barry Chambers, Professor Helen Garnett and Mr Paul Tyrell.
"... strengthening CDU's role as a leading research and education provider in specialist areas"

LEADING ACADEMICS

Some of Australia’s leading academics have joined Charles Darwin University, strengthening the organisation’s role as a leading research and education provider in specialist areas, thus increasing the University’s ability to meet government needs in key areas including:

Lifting Literacy Levels - Charles Darwin University, in partnership with the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments, is developing an intensive implementation and research plan to expand an innovative literacy program in the Territory.

Higher Education at Alice - A landmark Higher Education Centre will be built in Alice Springs as part of a Charles Darwin University push to advance central Australian education.

Broadband Boost - The University and the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education stand to benefit from improved capacity for electronic-based education and research activities in Central Australia.

Charles Darwin Symposia Series - Initiated last year, the Charles Darwin Symposia Series is designed to mark the University as a space where diverse ideas about contemporary life and issues in north Australia can be debated by a broad cross-section of the community. As a free ‘festival of ideas’ the Series attracts high quality speakers blending local and national, academic and professional, and lay perspectives on issues of importance to northern Australia and our future.

Indigenous Music Making - The University has been running successful contemporary music training programs in remote Indigenous communities throughout the Northern Territory. The Yugul Band from Ngukurr is one of several Indigenous bands to have formed and now perform in a commercial capacity as a result of the University’s Remote Music Delivery Program.
Highlights of Partnership Activities

Schedule 1.3
STRENGTHENING RESIDENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CAPACITY IN THE TERRITORY

"Bushfire smoke and the relationship between human and landscape health". This project involves landscape ecologists, environmental chemists and public health specialists. Government and University are collaborating on a number of research projects, an interesting example of which is the investigation of bushfire smoke in Darwin and Palmerston. The findings of the research will contribute to improved fire management practices to reduce injurious smoke pollution events and contribute to setting appropriate national air quality standards. The outcomes of the project will be of benefit to the Government, University and NT Community. The NT Government provided approximately $140,000 in cash which leveraged $395,000 from the Commonwealth over three years. The NT Government is providing a further $367,000 in-kind support to the project over three years.

Schedule 2.3
ENHANCING COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES

The development of an agreed framework for improving teacher capabilities in the use of Improving Teacher Capacity (ICT) has been developed. The framework is structured around a series of “stages and indicators”, which combine to form an ICT adoption continuum. This continuum enables the teachers to assess their own skill levels and the current stage they are at in respect to integrating ICT into classroom activities. This knowledge allows the teachers to identify their own future professional learning needs.

The continuum has also been used by Charles Darwin University to inform the development of a framework around which a suite of modules has been developed to support teachers professional learning. These modules will be delivered to teachers as part of a professional learning activity from August 2004. Learning outcomes will be assessed and used to refine the module content for future delivery.

The suite of modules developed under this schedule will also be incorporated into teacher training programmes of the University in this way ensuring that new graduates entering the teaching profession in the Northern Territory have the skills and competences required to integrate ICT into classroom activities in such a manner that improves student learning outcomes.

There is a need to identify a set of assessable ICT competencies for year 10 students, leading to the VET Certificate Level 1 being offered to students completing year 10. Charles Darwin University will become the registered training organisation and also be responsible for issuing the certificates.
Schedule 2.5
CHARLES DARWIN SYMPOSIA

The Charles Darwin Symposium Series began in 2003. It has been designed to mark the launch of Charles Darwin University, provide public outreach and demonstrate ‘return on investment’ for the community, enhance public opinion of the University, and engage with community issues and public policy concerns. The Series is a joint activity between Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory Government and the Australian National University. In 2003, four symposia were held on the following themes: ‘Making Good Policy: Issues for North Australia in the 21st Century’; ‘Beyond the Frontier: Sustainable futures for North Australia’; ‘The Eye of the Storm: Northern Australia’s location in an area of instability’; Emerging Futures: Shaping our Territory’. In 2004, one symposium has been held: ‘Creative Tropical City’. A second is currently being planned for November entitled ‘Globalisation of Indigenous Knowledge’.

Schedule 4.2
IMPROVING INDIGENOUS LITERACY

The Northern Territory Government and Charles Darwin University, in partnership with the Commonwealth government, is developing an innovative implementation and research plan to expand an innovative literacy program in the Territory. The Commonwealth has allocated $8,200,000 to the Northern Territory to implement this program over the next 5 years.

The National Accelerated Literacy Program is designed to accelerate the literacy skills of marginalised learners who have failed to make the appropriate literacy gains in school and/or who are in acute danger of falling behind. This partnership constitutes the first phase to make Accelerated Literacy available and sustainable Australia wide. For the past five years, accelerated literacy has been conducted as an action research project by a small team of experts based at the University of Canberra under the Scaffolding Literacy Program. These specialists headed up by Associate Professor Brian Gray and Ms Wendy Cowey, have now transferred to Charles Darwin University.

Under the pilots, students successfully gained literacy skills at a much higher level than if the intervention had not occurred, and following this success, the Northern Territory will be the first Australian State or Territory to open up its schools to the research and development work required to mainstream the Program.

In particular Dr Lea, Director of the University’s School for Social and Policy Research, has already secured a three year $435,000 grant from the Ian Potter Foundation. The grant will support a Senior/Principal Research Fellow in Education Economics who will formulate and drive many of the research questions behind this new program. Education Economics is a ground-breaking response to the limited evidence base currently available to understand what teachers and schools should or could be doing to reliably improve learning outcomes and to the generation of objective advice on where key investment areas for best education effect could or should be made.
THE BOARD

The NT Research and Innovation Board is currently being established and is anticipated to be operational early in 2004/05. The role of the Board is to:

- Set achievable goals in Tropical and Desert Knowledge;
- Make recommendations to the Government on expenditure of the $1 million NT Research and Innovation Fund; and
- Report on the performance of the NT Research and Innovation Fund and secure ongoing funding.

The Board will be innovative and influential, and will represent the interests of private and public sector research, Indigenous people, commercialisation, the Top End and Central Australia.

THE FUND

$1M has been allocated to the Research and Innovation Fund for three years from 2004/05. The Fund is held by Charles Darwin University under an agreement with the NT Government. It is intended to leverage additional research funds from other government and private sources, provide scholarships and prizes to assist Territory scientists, students and institutions and otherwise assist research and innovation in the Territory.

The Fund will offer:
- Project/Industry Grants (leveraging ARC funds)
- Scholarships
- Australian Post Graduate Awards (Industry) Scholarships (leveraging ARC funds)
- NT Post Graduate Innovation Scholarships (fully funded)
- Matched funding for collaborative projects
- NT Science and Innovation Awards in Tropical and Desert Knowledge

The Fund is expected to leverage an additional $1.7M from Commonwealth sources, significantly increase the number of post-graduate researchers in the NT, attract private sector investment to Territory-based research and focus these efforts in the areas of highest competitive advantage in Tropical and Desert Knowledge.

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

An Executive Officer will be appointed to support the Board and Fund. This position will work closely with the Manager of Charles Darwin University’s Research Branch to develop and review the selection guidelines, promote the Fund, assess applications, monitor and report on the progress of the Fund and maximise its leveraging potential.

PROCUREMENT AND THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Government has determined that that implementation of the Partnership Agreement will be undertaken by agencies using Certificates of Exemption through the normal procurement process, i.e., if a project is a schedule to the Partnership Agreement, a Certificate of Exemption can be applied for.

A Certificate of Exemption (COE) must be approved by the Procurement Review Board before proceeding to tender. The COE permits agencies to tender directly to the University rather than going to public tender. The intent of the exemption is to encourage Government to use the significant expertise located at Charles Darwin University, thereby achieving the objective of the Partnership Agreement which is to develop and implement collaborative activities between Government and the University that are mutually productive, cooperative and confer benefit to the social and economic development of the Northern Territory.

The table below outlines the process for applying for a certificate of exemption with Charles Darwin University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate of Exemption to Contract &amp; Procurement Services (CAPS)</th>
<th>CAPS forwards the Certificate of Exemption to Procurement Review Board (PRB) approval.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope of works and Authority to Invite Tenders to CAPS</td>
<td>Agency to prepare Scope of Work and Authority to Invite Tenders with Delegated Officer’s signature and forwards to CAPS for processing. CAPS prepare a Request for Tender which is forwarded to the Agency for final approval before release.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release</td>
<td>CAPS release the tender to Charles Darwin University for two weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of tender</td>
<td>Tender closes 2pm on a Wednesday and is checked for conformity. Response forwarded to Agency for assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Paper to Board</td>
<td>CAPS prepares and submits Business Paper to PRB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>Once approval from PRB received CAPS awards contract.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUPPORT FOR THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Activities under the Partnership Agreement are supported by two officers, one from Government and one from the University. These officers form the secretariat and act as facilitators to Schedule Teams and provide executive support implementing the leadership directives of the Peak Group. A web site managed by the University in collaboration with the Department of the Chief Minister has been established to provide public access to Partnership information, contact details of key officers, news on recent successes and advice on issues of mutual importance.

Any member of University or Government can contact Rachael or Chrissie on matters of Partnership. They can be contacted on www.cdu.edu.govt