2013 CDU Higher Ed Week Program Report
13th – 16th May

The Office of MACE would like to acknowledge that this program would not be possible without the support of Faculties, PVC’s, Heads of Schools, HE Lecturers, Staff and Support Services, who volunteered to assist, and/or open their classrooms to enable senior students a unique and valued experience.

First trialled in 2008, it became clear students have a variety of pressures, fears and misconceptions about Higher Education whilst completing their senior years. Although they have a fairly good knowledge of careers achieved through HE, there is a lot unknown about what life will actually be like as a university student studying at CDU. This leaves the student vulnerable, hesitant and reliant on the guidance of others versus their own experience.

This unique senior student program is flexible and structured to suit young adults. It offers an expansive program that introduces students to a number of Higher Education courses as well as the range of Support Services available to students as they study. The program gives students the freedom they need to enjoy and feel the atmosphere of the environment, attend HE classes relevant to their career interests or aspirations, a broad awareness of the many disciplines, careers, courses and study pathway options CDU has to offer and it enables them to explore and familiarise themselves with the campus and our facilities.

**External Stakeholders:** Senior Secondary School Students, Career Advisers & Senior Teachers.

**Internal Stakeholders:** CDU Faculties, Schools, HE & VET, Community Engagement, Marketing & Support Services.

**Aim:** To provide Senior Secondary School Students, and their Peers an opportunity to participate and find out for themselves, “what it is like” to attend Charles Darwin University, meet and interact with real Professors and HE Students, whilst being able to experience the difference between a lecture, tutorial, practicum, seminar or workshop, learn about our Support Services, whilst exploring our fantastic Campus and Facilities.

**Student Evaluation Summary**

75% of all participating senior students have attended Expo’s and University Information Days, with 100% believing they have a good awareness of the different careers achieved through higher education. Only 50% of students were aware that if they did not achieve an ATAR, they could participate in the CDU Tertiary Enabling Program (TEP) or VET Pathway as an alternate entry pathway towards a diploma and/or most degrees.

75% of senior students believed they had a fairly good idea of what University would be like, with 50% of students stated, university was as they expected. 100% of senior students believed this program is a valuable learning opportunity for students considering university, and by attending the program they feel more comfortable to visit the campus, with 100% saying they intend on attending University once completing school. It is important to note in comparison with the 2012 program, there has been an increase from 11% to 24% of students choosing to participate in the program of their own accord, with one senior student travelling from Tennant Creek.

**Program Structure:** Senior Students could participate in any offering, any day with or without school supervision. Students were provided with Student Evaluation that included a student request for more information section.

**74 Students from the following Schools:** Darwin High School, Kormilda College, O’Loughlin Catholic College, Palmerston Senior College & Tennant Creek High School, with 18 Students choosing to make their own way, during their study periods to participate.

**54 Higher Ed Program Offerings:** Psychological & Clinical Sciences, Exercise Sports Science, Australian Centre of Indigenous Knowledges and Education, Education, Health, Nursing, Creative Arts & Humanities, Health, Social Work,
Questions from the Student Evaluation Form

1. Have you attended Career Expos and University Information Days?
2. Do you believe you have a good awareness of the different types of Careers you can achieve through Higher Education?
3. Before participating in the program, did you believe that you had a fairly good idea of what University would be like?
4. Was the University experience, as you had expected?
5. Do you believe by attending this program, you now have a better understanding of what studying at University would be like?
6. Before participating in the program were you a little concerned, and wondering if university was right for you?
7. Do you believe by participating in this program you now more comfortable to visit the campus and have more confidence in your ability, to be a University student if you choose to be?
8. Would you say that this program is a valuable learning opportunity for senior students considering University?
9. Did you know that if you did not successfully achieve Year 12 or the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR), once you have turned 18 years old, you could do the Tertiary Enabling Program (TEP) at CDU for free, giving you an opportunity to commence Diploma and/or most Higher Education Degrees?
10. Are you considering attending university after completing your secondary schooling?

Student Comments:

- I would like to thank you very much for providing information on the NT medical program and giving students the opportunity to tour the area. I’m very excited to be applying at CDU soon! (T)
- I am so happy that I came. I had done a fair bit of research in preparation for Uni. I was fairly confident I had all the information, but since attending and speaking directly to the staff, there was so much more that I found really helpful. (L)
- I am doing a traineeship in financial services whilst at school, I was thinking of quitting but since coming to Uni and speaking with staff I understand the diversity of the field and where this career could lead me if I choose to do further study.

Student requests for more information:
Law, Accounting, Medicine, Biomedicine & NT Flinders Medical Program

$100 Gift Card Student Survey Prize Draw Winner: TC Darwin High School

Initiative of Charles Darwin University Office of Media, Advancement and Community Engagement, SchoolsLink Trisha Mellow