Governance and Leadership Development Strategy

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The Institute builds on the strength of its connections to remote, regional and urban contexts and focuses on issues of importance around the intersections of people, policy and place. Its research program and activities aim to:

- provide evidence for policy development
- generate informed debate
- build the capacity of social researchers in the region
- respond to the needs of agencies and communities in the region.
- Bring knowledgeable and skilled people together to consider complex issues related to social and public policy research in regional and remote contexts.
Indigenous Governance and Leadership

Team:
Professor Michael Christie
Dr (Payi) Linda Ford
Professor Rolf Gerritsen
Professor Helen Verran
Dr Anthea Nicholls
Trevor Van Weeren
Dr Emma Williams
Matt Campbell
Dr Allan Arnott
Kathy Guthadjaka
Tanyah Nasir
Juli Cathcart
We work collaboratively, ‘both-ways’ and from the ground up with people and organisations in remote Aboriginal communities.

We are committed to healthy, productive and sustainable remote Aboriginal communities.

We begin with a commitment to traditional Aboriginal authority and governance.

We work with governments, industry and NGOs to enhance their interactions with Aboriginal individuals and with groups to facilitate ongoing productive engagements.

We work with the problems of the moment – whether they be formalising governance arrangements, improving communication, ‘cultural awareness’, or the uses of digital technologies in remote Australia.

We do not deliver accredited training, but work on the ground to enhance the skills of individuals and groups, and provide information about government policies, programs and legal issues for informed decision making.

This on-ground work involves both Aboriginal community members and the non-Aboriginal people they work with.

We work to find innovative local solutions, improve intercultural communication and increase engagement and participation on local terms under local authority.
Ground Up

Governance and Leadership work is

• Situated and customised
• Values both ways learning and intercultural understandings
• Based on integrative education and the cultivation of people and community as well as skills and visions on both sides of the government-community divide
• Is complemented by a workshop-driven approach
• Includes mentoring
• Integrates and uses digital technologies
• Includes participatory design
• Is embedded in an evaluation framework underpinned by participatory action research
Addressing key needs

Building up good supervisors’ skills


- Indigenous enterprise management models for informed decision making

- Legacy of governance structures

- Building everyone's long term capacity for joint governance arrangements and reporting impact
Central Australia

• local government agency functions, examining the administrative organisation and governance effects on remote and Indigenous local governments resulting from their role in delivering programs on behalf of other spheres of government

• Structures for local governance and management
Evaluation of Social Policy

- Support local governance and leadership through collaborative and empowering evaluations, typically involving multiple methods including both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

- An emphasis on working with stakeholders to clarify their processes and desired outcomes, often achieved through a Program Logic model and ideally beginning at the project design stage.

- Development where required of databases and also data collection support, often involving substantial innovation and targeting the needs of program participants where literacy and English language fluency present challenges.

- Researchers and evaluators with capacity to provide an Indigenous perspective on issues and experience working in remote community contexts.

- An emphasis on policy-building evidence as well as theory-building findings and methodologies.
. In summary

• Its not *just* what you do, it’s the way that you do it
Thank you

For more information

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www.cdu.edu.au/the-northern-institute

http://www.cdu.edu.au/centres/groundup/