UNDERSTANDING BODY SHAPE AND BODY COMPOSITION IS RELEVANT FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

Dr Hughes is a PhD student, and medical doctor studying at Charles Darwin University, based at Menzies School of Health Research. Dr Hughes is also a Torres Strait Islander. I grew up thinking the body shape of my Islander relatives was just normal and ran in the family. I learnt from medical training that many of these relatives actually exhibited signs of illness: obesity and diabetes. The permissive “normal” of obesity and diabetes (and its consequences) in communities is unacceptable. Young people shouldn’t expect to grow up believing these illnesses are normal either.

Dr Hughes grew up in Darwin, and is now a kidney specialist (nephrologist). She is concerned that much of the kidney damage amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people stems from preventable illness like obesity, diabetes and heart attack. Dr Hughes is studying the body composition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in her research.

Let’s think about the BMI (body mass index) and Indigenous Australians. BMI was developed as an indicator of body fatness, and was first studied amongst European populations. BMI was associated with the least deaths from heart disease. Weight is an essential ingredient of calculating the BMI. Muscle has greater density and weighs more than fat. The healthy BMI range hasn’t been proven for Indigenous Australians. The BMI of a healthy fit Torres Strait Islander athlete (for example, Wendell Sailor or Sam Thaiday) might be very high, even in the “obesity range” because BMI can’t differentiate if body weight is dominated by muscle (rather than fat).

Story continues on page 7.
STUDENT PROFILE

MICK ROBERTS

COURSE:
Certificate II in Agriculture.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM:
I was born in Lismore, New South Wales but brought up in Sydney. I am a descendant of the Bunjilung Tribe.

WHY STUDY AT CDU?
To get away from the city.

LIKES:
Having adventures in the outback and riding horses.

DISLIKES:
Nothing.

FAVOURITE BUSH TUCKER:
I haven’t tried anything local yet but I would like too.

FAVOURITE FOOD:
Italian meatballs and fettucine pasta.

FAVOURITE MOVIE:
Beat Street — it’s an old school hip hop movie.

FAVOURITE MUSIC:
Run DMC but anything as long as it sounds good.

FAVOURITE SPORT:
NRL football.

AMBITIONS AND ASPIRATIONS:
To do barrel racing on horses and bull riding.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO FELLOW STUDENTS:
Come and give it a go. You only live once and there is nothing like mustering a big paddock of cattle on horse back.

It’s all fun and adventure working in the yards, riding horses, quad and motor bikes. If people want to pay me to do this, I’ll let them.

REMINDER!!
INDIGENOUS ALTERNATIVE ENTRY PROGRAM

If you reside in Darwin and are considering Undergraduate studies at CDU in 2010, applications have been extended until Friday 6 November, 2009.

Please contact Betty Ah Kit on telephone 08 8946 6640 or email betty.ahkit@cdu.edu.au
STUDENT PROFILE

THARRON MOGRIDGE

COURSE:
Certificate III in Music.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM:
Geraldton, Western Australia.

WHY STUDY AT CDU?
It's a good learning experience.

LIKES:
Playing “Tears in heaven” on my guitar.

DISLIKES:
Pumpkin.

FAVOURITE BUSH TUCKER:
Kangaroo — Yonga.

FAVOURITE FOOD:
Butter chicken.

FAVOURITE MOVIE:
Cool runnings.

FAVOURITE MUSIC:
Rock and roll.

FAVOURITE SPORT:
Basketball.

AMBITIONS AND ASPIRATIONS:
To become a father.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO FELLOW STUDENTS:
Well if you wanna become a Musician, CDU is the place to conquer that fear of public outings.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Indigenous Student Ambassador Program enables Indigenous students enrolled in Higher Education courses at CDU to contribute to their community through volunteering and role modelling. By participating in this program, Student Ambassadors are covered by CDU Volunteer Insurance and can gain recognition for their contributions.

Are you interested in becoming an Indigenous Student Ambassador? If so, please contact Betty Ah Kit on telephone 08 8946 6640 or betty.ahkit@cdu.edu.au for further information and an application package.
2010 APPLICATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY AT CDU NOW OPEN

As a multi-sector education provider, CDU provides unique pathways for students, from school-based vocational training through to advanced research degrees. CDU offers a fresh approach to education, training, research and knowledge application and our students are drawn from the local area, across Australia and overseas; consisting of Indigenous and international students, school leavers, and mature age people returning to study.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Applications for admission into Higher Education courses for 2010 are now open. You can make an application to SATAC based on your Tertiary Entrance Ranking (TER).

Admission into an undergraduate course is by successful completion of the Northern Territory Certificate of Education (NTCE) or equivalent and a TER of 60 or higher. Information on additional special admission requirements are contained in the course outline, where applicable.

Students who have previously studied Year 12 and received a TER score of less than 60 but more than 49 which has been attained at the end of Year 12 are still encouraged to apply for their chosen higher education degree course. This is done through the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC). CDU awards bonus points to all Northern Territory school leavers as well as interstate school leavers from a high school in a rural or remote area that borders NT — i.e. South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales.

To apply for admission visit http://www.cdu.edu.au/study/highered.html

Late application closing date is 4 December, 2009 and a late fee may apply.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

CDU offers more than 100 Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses in 23 different industries, at CDU campuses and centres throughout the Northern Territory. VET courses range from Certificate I to Advanced Diploma level and include apprenticeships and traineeships.

With such a variety of options, from hospitality and tourism to transport and storage, and automotive to business, you can choose the course that is right for you. A full list of current VET courses offered at CDU can be accessed at http://www.cdu.edu.au/cduvet/index.html This list provides initial details on courses available, the campus offering the course, career opportunities and general course information.

CDU offers continuous enrolment into VET courses. For most courses, all you will need to do is complete the enrolment form. However, some courses require students to complete a VET109 VET Course Enquiry prior to enrolment. The easiest way to check availability and the enrolment process for the course you are interested in is to contact the specific CDU team prior to enrolling. Most certificate courses do not have specific entry requirements but do require a satisfactory level of literacy and numeracy; a TER is not required for enrolment.

Diploma courses require successful completion of Year 12 (or equivalent), completion of a Certificate IV, or relevant experience.

TERTIARY ENABLING PROGRAM

If you don’t quite meet the entry requirements for higher education or if you wish to study for a Diploma but didn’t complete Year 12, check out the Tertiary Enabling Program at http://www.cdu.edu.au/teachingandlearning/learnlink/programs/tep.html

SPECIAL TERTIARY ADMISSIONS TEST (STAT), SEMESTER 1, 2010

Please note: STAT places are limited — first to apply and pay early will be scheduled in the sittings below:

STAT Casuarina campus:
Friday 20 November, 2009

STAT Alice Springs campus:
Friday 11 December, 2009
SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CDU SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2010
Applications now open. Visit the following webpages to apply. Entry Level Scholarships
http://www.cdu.edu.au/scholarships/entry-lvl.html

- Enrolled Student Scholarships

- VET scholarships

- Indigenous Student Scholarships

Equity scholarships for students commencing Higher Education in 2010 include:

STUDENT START-UP SCHOLARSHIP
For university students in receipt of Youth Allowance, AUSTUDY and ABSTUDY and those assisted under veterans’ schemes, the allowance will be $2,254 in 2010 and indexed thereafter. No application is required. The allowance will be paid directly to all eligible students through Centrelink.

COMMONWEALTH RELOCATION SCHOLARSHIP
For students receiving Youth Allowance, AUSTUDY and ABSTUDY who are dependants who have to live away from the family home for study, and for independent students who are disadvantaged by personal and relationship circumstances. The allowance will be $4,000 for students in their first year at university and $1,000 in subsequent years for up to four years. No application is required. The allowance will be paid directly to all eligible students through Centrelink.

INSTITUTION EQUITY SCHOLARSHIPS
Institution Equity Scholarships are university funded and targeted to undergraduate students who can provide proof of financial need. Please go to the link below for details on specific scholarships details and application procedures.

Scholarship Information Sheet

Application Form

There is also an extensive range of scholarships for students studying in particular disciplines and many offered by external providers. Please take some time to review all potential scholarship opportunities if you are intending to study at CDU in 2010.

Assistance to apply for a scholarship is available from Indigenous Academic Support staff.
Applications are invited for the 2010 Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship for Honours in politics (or related subjects) at any Australian university.

The Scholarship is in memory of Neville Bonner AO, the first Indigenous Member of Federal Parliament and is equivalent in value to the Australian Postgraduate Award (approximately $22,500 in 2010) plus HECS. To be eligible to apply, you must be an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Further information and application forms are available at:

http://info.anu.edu.au/ovc/Committees/120PP_Scholarships/Neville_Bonner

Contact: The Neville Bonner Scholarship Administrator
Council and Boards Secretariat
Room 1.09 Chancelry Bld 10
The Australian National University
CANBERRA ACT 0200

Phone: (02) 6125 2825
Email: cabs.admin@anu.edu.au

Applications Close 30 November 2009

Sponsored by the Australian Federal Government and
The Australian National University

TUTORS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU

With access to qualified tutors and CDU’s supportive study environment, the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) is designed to help you get through your studies. During 2009, the ITAS program has supported students from many locations including Alice Springs, Armidale, Brisbane, Darwin, Halls Creek, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Palmerston, Sydney and Tennant Creek. No matter where you live, we will do our best to find a tutor for you in your region.

Tutorial assistance will help you to:

• better understand what is expected of you in regard to your assignments
• manage your time and plan your study
• get the most out of your study experience so you can reach your full potential.

ITAS Tertiary Tuition may be approved:

• for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are enrolled in a formal training program
• for an eligible student’s formal course of study
• for up to 2 hours per week per subject and up to 5 additional hours in total during exam preparation breaks.

For more information, contact Tracy Sariago on telephone 08 8946 6479 or email tracy.sariago@cdu.edu.au or Gayle Wattam on telephone 08 8946 6962 or email gayle.wattam@cdu.edu.au
On the other hand an Aboriginal with a slim build might not fit into the BMI categories very well either. A study in Central Australia showed that over 8 years follow-up, people with a BMI of less than 25kg/m$^2$ (i.e. in the “healthy” range) developed Type 2 diabetes. Daniels suggests that a lower BMI (<22kg/m$^2$) might be recommended in order to prevent onset of diabetes.

This discussion on body mass index highlights some uncertainties about our knowledge of body composition for Indigenous Australians. Another example is body fat. Everyone has fat, and everyone needs it. Too much fat, especially deep belly fat (visceral fat) is strongly linked to pre-diabetes (metabolic syndrome diabetes) and heart disease. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are extremely well informed (often from personal or family experience) about diabetes, heart disease and kidney failure.

Dr Hughes’ PhD studies are linking body composition with the health profile of healthy people and people with chronic illness in two projects at Menzies School of Health Research. The first study is called the “eGFR Study: The accurate assessment of kidney function and progression of chronic kidney disease in Indigenous Australians.” The “eGFR Study” links the measurement of muscle with the accurate measurement of kidney function. Our current kidney blood test is based on measuring a protein that comes from muscle, yet we don’t have a clear understanding of how much muscle Indigenous Australians have (and we know that Indigenous Australians have very different body builds). The kidney blood test was developed amongst a group of Americans, mostly of Caucasian background. The eGFR study is testing the kidney blood test for accuracy in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

So I’d encourage people to contact the eGFR Team at Menzies if you want your kidneys and body shape checked out. This includes people with diabetes and heart disease as well as relatives of people with kidney disease, because we have to be confident that our eGFR Study shows accuracy for all people (not just those with kidney damage). Continued support from the community (we’ve tested 300 people across Northern Australia to date) means we can sort out the accuracy of the kidney blood test for Indigenous Australians. The eGFR team assesses people in Darwin, and travels to communities also. Recent trips away have included Bega Health Clinic (Kalgoorlie), Tennant Creek, and the team will return for a second visit to Thursday Island on November 16 2009.

Dr Hughes is leading a second study called Healthy Top-Enders which commenced assessments on 28 October 2009 in Darwin. This study focuses on younger people, who are healthy. We are learning about the body composition (muscle, fat, bones) of healthy Aboriginal people and a healthy non-Indigenous comparator group, and will test 50 people in total. A key focus of the Healthy Top-Enders Study is learning from healthy people, how their bodies are protecting them from diabetes, heart disease and kidney failure. If we understand health well, we can make a bigger impact on prevention and lifestyle programs and policy for people who are at high risk for chronic illness.

Until Dr Hughes reports on her PhD findings about body composition (2011), she encourages people to remember key health messages:

- have a regular preventative health check-up.
- Diabetes, heart attack and kidney damage often don’t have symptoms, but are very responsive to treatment, especially if detected early
- don’t smoke cigarettes
- eat a balanced nutritious diet
- exercise regularly (most days of the week) including exercise that makes you huff and puff, and increase opportunities to walk (instead of driving)
- consider how you can join in the Menzies research efforts to tackle kidney disease (in the eGFR Study) or assist us to learn about Healthy Top-Enders

Please contact Sian Graham on telephone 08 8922 8283 or Jaqui Hughes on telephone 08 8922 8412 for more information.
Professor Mick Dodson Visits Katherine Rural Campus

Australian of the Year and Katherine born Mick Dodson, met with students recently at Charles Darwin University (CDU) Rural campus.

Mr Dodson, Professor of Law and Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University (ANU), has been travelling and promoting his aim to see all kids in school by 2010.

At the Rural campus, Mr Dodson met with Norforce soldiers who are completing the Certificate II in Rural Operations and are set to graduate as Patrolmen on 18 December, 2009.

Defence Indigenous Development Program (DIDP) Manager, Captain Adam Baden-Clay said it was a privilege to host someone with such a positive profile as Mr Dodson.

“This program provides such a good opportunity for development, and it’s great for Mr Dodson to see that”.

Mr Dodson also met with students completing a specially designed Community Patrol course from which they will graduate in December, 2009.

Mr Dodson, took the opportunity to visit the Yangan.garr Indigenous Academic Support Centre and toured the campus with Natalie Ellis, Indigenous Academic Support Lecturer.

Natalie said “It was a huge honour to have Professor Dodson visit our campus and mingle with the Indigenous students”.

Prof Mick Dodson with Indigenous Academic Support Lecturer, Natalie Ellis
SECONDARY SCHOOL VISITS

SEEN OUT AND ABOUT AT ALYANGULA AREA SCHOOL, ANGURUGU EDUCATION CENTRE, GAPUWIYAK EDUCATION CENTRE, MANINGRIDA EDUCATION CENTRE, MILINGIMBI EDUCATION CENTRE, NHULUNBUY HIGH SCHOOL, RAMINGINING SCHOOL, SHEPERDSON COLLEGE, UMBAKUMBA COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND YIRRKALA EDUCATION CENTRE

Emanuele Tausinga, Yvette Carolin and Kathy Arbon, Indigenous Academic Support Lecturers recently travelled to remote parts of the Darwin Outer and East Arnhem Regions to meet with potential CDU Indigenous students. Staff discussed CDU Vocational and Higher Education courses and what support is available from the Indigenous Academic Support Unit for Indigenous students considering tertiary studies. Can you spot your Community?
‘TRY A TRADE’ ON ALICE SPRINGS CAMPUS

Up to 90 Indigenous students from Alice Springs and surrounding areas, one as far as Oratip-Thurra Aboriginal Community 320 kilometers away travelled to CDU’s Alice Springs campus to participate in the annual ‘Try A Trade’ program coordinated by Group Training Northern Territory (GTNT) on Wednesday 16 September, 2009.

Students undertaking ‘hands on’ activities as part of the ‘Try A Trade’ program of activities on CDU’s Alice Springs campus.

Middle picture L — R: Robyn McInerney with Darren Hayes, Kaston Hayes, Michael Bevan and Anthony Doolan, students from Ltyentye Apurte Community Education Centre

SEEN OUT AND ABOUT AT THE IED CONFERENCE IN ALICE SPRINGS

L — R: Kathy Arbon, IASL Gurinbey — Casuarina campus, Chief Clarence Louie from Osoyoos First Nation, Canada and Lorraine St Clair, IASL Akaltyle — Alice Springs campus

IED Exhibitor Hall, Alice Springs Convention Centre

L — R: Robyn McInerney with Darren Hayes, Kaston Hayes, Michael Bevan and Anthony Doolan, students from Ltyentye Apurte Community Education Centre
TI TREE SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS 40TH BIRTHDAY

Indigenous Academic Support staff Sharon Donnellan, Lorraine St Clair and Chris Rothery joined David Reilly, CDU Alice Springs Campus Administrator at the recent 40th birthday celebration of Ti Tree School.

As part of the celebrations, invited guests were treated to a morning tea of scones with jam and cream and a hot drink. The Opening ceremony came alive with traditional dancing and speeches delivered by Janie Long, Jasper Haines, Ian Reid (1969 Principal), Robbie Charles, Zania Liddle (current Principal), Andrew Mirtschin (Group School Principal) and Member for Stuart, Karl Hampton, MLA.

TiTree school students presented an array of songs followed by the cutting of the birthday cake. Invited guests also had the opportunity to visit the Language, Cultural and History displays and participate in the tree planting ceremony.

NRL and AFL sports stars, David Peachey, former Cronulla Sharks and Rabbitohs player and representatives from the Richmond Football Club spoke to students about how important it is to stay in school and what students can do to deal with peer pressure.

“It was a great networking opportunity, catching up with at least one past and present student,” Sharon Donnellan said.

AFTERNOON TEA WITH CSC FOOTBALL ACADEMY

During October, Indigenous Academic Support staff, Betty Ah Kit and Janetta O’Donnell attended an afternoon tea with Nathan Perrin, Associate Director of the Casuarina Senior College Football Academy and participants on the Clontarf Program.

They met with other Clontarf staff and received an invitation to the Casuarina Colts Clontarf Academy Presentation Night. Betty, Janetta and Kathy Arbon, attended the evening and said the night was tremendously successful with over 200 people attending.

Nathan Perrin would like to extend a major thank you to all staff who came along and supported with laughs and compliments.

The Winners:
- Coaches’ Award - Jack Long (10)
- Top Trainer 2009 - Dylan O’Connor-Mitchell (11)
- Runner Up Best and Fairest - Jack Williams (10)
- Best and Fairest - Wayne Raymond (11)
- Rugby League Team Man - Trenton Smith (11)
- Clontarf Spirit Award - Kyle Tinoco (10)
- Principal’s Award - Stephen Hoffman (11) Lorenzo Anderson (10)
- R/U Best Attendee Year 10 - Jayde Forscutt
- Best Attendee Year 10 - Frank Pocock
- R/U Best Attendee Year 11 - Jerome Ahkit-Burgoyne
- Best Attendee - Billy Burn
- R/U Best Attendee Year 12 - Tyson Cigobia
- Best Attendee Year 12 - Thoren Fitzgerald
- Year 10 Academic Award - Tom Conroy
- Year 11 Academic Award - Trenton Smith
- Year 12 Academic Award - Cameron Versteegh
- Players Most Valuable Person - Jerome Ahkit-Burgoyne (11)
- Colt of the Year - Jerome Ahkit-Burgoyne (11)
After your hard work during the semester we hope you know that the CDU library not only has excellent resources (physical and electronic) for study purposes but also for that well deserved ‘recreational reading’!

Are you interested in travel reading, or books to help you make your holiday plans? What about graphic novels, DVDs or general fiction? Did you know that each month a new book list now goes onto the library website at http://www.cdu.edu.au/library/resource.html?

SOME IDEAS FOR FICTION
• Love like water by Meme McDonald
• Requiem for a beast : a work for image, word and music by Matt Ottley
• Me, Antman & Fleabag by Gayle Kennedy
• A strong song : a family saga of the Pintubi people by Colin McLeod
• Journey to the stone country by Alex Miller

INTERESTED IN NON-FICTION?
• Nicholas Rothwell-The Red Highway, and also his other books.
• Outback Australia: a guide to the Northern Territory and Kimberley (Little Hills Press)
• Aboriginal Australia and the Torres Strait Islands (Lonely Planet)
• Going bush: adventures across Indigenous Australia (Lonely Planet)
• 4WD driving skills: a manual for on and off road travel by Vic Widman
• Camping Guide to the Northern Territory by Craig Lewis and Cathy Savage
• The Larapinta Trail by John and Monica Chapman
• Northern Territory (Lonely Planet Guide)
• Australia: an ecotravellers guide by Hannah Robinson

LIBRARY CLOSING DATES
Both Casuarina and Alice Springs campus libraries close on 18 December, 2009 and will reopen on 4 January, 2010.

2010 CDU CAMPUS LIBRARY HOURS
• Alice Springs — Monday to Friday 8.00am — 4.00pm
• Casuarina — Monday to Friday 8.00am — 5.00pm
Closed on Saturday and reopen from 10.00am — 6.00pm on Sunday.

If you are studying over the summer semester do not hesitate to contact our friendly library staff. For information or assistance telephone Alice Springs library on 08 8959 5233, Casuarina library on 08 8946 7016 or Palmerston library on 08 8946 7870.

Happy holidays!
HOW CAN INDIGENOUS ACADEMIC SUPPORT HELP YOU?

The IAS team provides high level support and assistance to Indigenous students studying at CDU through:

- Provision of specialist orientation programs for new Indigenous students.
- Assistance with enrolment applications and course information.
- Provision of academic support and referrals for tutoring from the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS), through which individual or group tutorial assistance can be arranged.
- Access to a well-appointed Indigenous student common room, computer lab, tutorial room and large undercover seating area with fans and lights at Casuarina campus. Excellent student facilities are also available at Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs campuses as well as the Tennant Creek Training Centre.
- Assistance with top-up printing costs for Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education (HE) students.
- Development of your leadership and public speaking skills as an Indigenous Student Ambassador for CDU.
- Referral to support agencies (e.g., counsellors) and information and assistance for accessing other services on campus e.g., Support & Equity Services, which also includes access to disability services.
- Assistance with finding suitable accommodation through North Flinders International House, Mission Australia or Aboriginal Hostels.
- Provision of information about scholarships and other opportunities that become available for students from time to time, as well as assistance with the preparation and submission of scholarship applications.
- Provision of advocacy support (e.g., helping to deal with study problems, scholarship payments, access to Centrelink/Abstudy, etc).
- Regular visits to schools and community organisations to discuss study options and educational and career pathways available at CDU.
- Preparation and broad email distribution of monthly Indigenous Academic Support newsletter.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR STUDENTS

SUNNING HILL BURSARY OPENS DOORS FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

Indigenous students enrolled at CDU have been given a boost following a $30,000 donation from the Melbourne Community Foundation to establish the Sunning Hill Bursary. The donation of $10,000 annually for three years will provide Indigenous students enrolled at CDU the capacity to access financial assistance of up to $500.

Funds may be used to purchase special course requirements, assistance to attend relevant conferences/seminars, and unexpected or one-off expenses that cannot be met by any other income source.

To apply for funds, students must complete an application form and lodge it with the staff at Gurinbey Indigenous Academic Support Unit.

For more information, and to obtain an application form, contact Gurinbey on telephone 08 8946 7413 or email iasureception@cdu.edu.au
**INDIGENOUS ACADEMIC SUPPORT SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

**INDIGENOUS ALTERNATIVE ENTRY**

This program is designed to assess the academic potential of students, where the planning of appropriate study pathways can lead to enrolment in Higher Education (undergraduate) courses.

**INDIGENOUS TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Indigenous VET and Higher Education students are able to apply for tutorial assistance to help them reach their academic potential.

**INDIGENOUS ORIENTATION CAMP**

This program is designed to familiarise undergraduate and Tertiary Enabling Program students with the facilities available at CDU and orientate them to university life.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL VISITS**

The Secondary School program provides students with information about university and the courses available at CDU. Through this program students are encouraged to consider CDU as their university of choice should they wish to continue onto tertiary studies when they finish school.

**INDIGENOUS TASTE OF UNI**

This program has been designed to ensure Indigenous students’ smooth transition from high school into university courses that will provide pathways to furthering their education and to developing their career opportunities.

**INDIGENOUS CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS**

Significant cultural events are observed annually. The IASU organises activities and events on campus, as well as participating in Indigenous cultural celebrations in the community.

**INDIGENOUS STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

The Indigenous Student Ambassador Program provides high achieving Indigenous students with an opportunity to develop their leadership through volunteer activities. Indigenous Student Ambassadors are available as role models and guest speakers at school and community events to promote further education and academic achievement. If you would like further information about the Ambassador Program please contact Betty Ah Kit (Gurinbey) or Sharon Donnellan (Akaltye).

**RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

IASU has a range of resources designed to complement our students’ learning experience. This includes the provision of environments that are culturally, physically and intellectually safe and all campuses and major regional centres have dedicated space for Indigenous support.

Indigenous Academic Support organises workshops at various times for students in a diverse range of areas including Essay Writing; Time Management; Scholarship Application Writing; Budgeting Workshop for Scholarship recipients; and Library Tours, depending on student requirements.

Students may subscribe to receive the monthly Indigenous Academic Support Newsletter to keep them informed of activities and events on campus as well as information relevant to their studies.

**SUNNING HILL BURSARY**

Indigenous Academic Support administers the Sunning Hill Bursary. The bursary was gifted by the Melbourne Community Foundation and students may apply for funds which can be used to purchase special course requirements, assistance to attend relevant conferences/seminars, and unexpected or one-off expenses that cannot be met by any other income source.

**INDIGENOUS POSTGRADUATE SUPPORT**

A review into support for Indigenous postgraduate students will be undertaken in 2010.
OUR STAFFING TEAM FOR 2009

Roz Anderson
Coordinator
Indigenous Academic Support
Ph: 08 8946 6401
roz.anderson@cdu.edu.au

Kathy Arbon
Indigenous Academic Support Lecturer
Ph: 08 8946 6037
kathleen.arbon@cdu.edu.au
Arts & Humanities, Architecture, Trades, Access & Enabling

Tracy Sariago
Coordinator
Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme
Ph: 08 8946 6479
tracy.sariago@cdu.edu.au
All students

Natalie Ellis
Indigenous Academic Support Lecturer
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Katherine students

Lorraine St Clair
Indigenous Academic Support Lecturer
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Alice Springs students

GianCarlo David
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giancarlo.david@cdu.edu.au

Betty Ah Kit
Acting Senior
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Indigenous Knowledges, Education, Information

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Tennant Creek students

Sharon Donnellan
Indigenous Academic Support Lecturer
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sharon.donnellan@cdu.edu.au
Alice Springs students

Angela Dizon
Receptionist/Personal Assistant
Ph: 08 8946 7413
angela.dizon@cdu.edu.au

Yvette Carolin
Indigenous Academic Support Lecturer
Ph: 08 8946 7786
yvette.carolin@cdu.edu.au
Engineering, Social Work & Community Services; Business, Pharmacy

Janetta O’Donnell
Indigenous Academic Support Lecturer
Ph: 08 8946 7860
janetta.odonnell@cdu.edu.au
Palmerston students Law, Nursing, Science students

Emanuele Tausinga
Indigenous Academic Support Lecturer
Ph: 08 8986 8600
emanuele.tausinga@cdu.edu.au
Nhulunbuy students Postgraduate students

Senior Indigenous Academic Support Lecturer
To be appointed soon.
CONTACT US
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Gurinbey at Casuarina campus
The Indigenous Academic Support area is located at Blue 2 and includes a range of staff offices and facilities for students.
Contact Reception on telephone 08 8946 7413.

Duwun at Palmerston campus
Indigenous Academic Support at the Palmerston campus is located within Administration in Building A.
Contact Janetta O’Donnell on telephone 08 8946 7860.

Akaltye at Alice Springs campus
Indigenous Academic Support is located at the Alice Springs campus.
Contact Lorraine St Clair on telephone 08 8973 8348.

Yangan.garr at Katherine Rural campus
Indigenous Academic Support is located at the Katherine campus within the Library building.
Contact Natalie Ellis on telephone 08 8973 8348.

Tennant Creek campus
Indigenous Academic Support is located at the Tennant Creek campus.
Contact Chris Rothery on telephone 08 8962 0704.

Nhulunbuy campus
Indigenous Academic Support is located at the Nhulunbuy campus.
Contact Emanuele Tausinga on telephone 08 8986 8600.

Regional and External students
Students living in the northern region of the NT or in other Australian states should contact the Gurinbey staff at Casuarina campus.

Students living in the southern region of the NT should contact the Akaltye staff at Alice Springs campus.

To subscribe to the Indigenous Academic Support newsletter, please email iasureception@cdu.edu.au to receive our monthly newsletter via email.

General Enquiries
Charles Darwin University
Gurinbey
Blue 2, Casuarina campus
Casuarina NT 0909
Telephone: 08 8946 7413
Fax: 08 8946 6064
Email: iasureception@cdu.edu.au
Website: www.cdu.edu.au/iasu

CDU’S COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS EDUCATION
The Charles Darwin University Indigenous Peoples Policy provides the framework to manage activities that impact upon the Indigenous community of the Northern Territory. Given the unique demography of the jurisdiction, with nearly 30% of its population being Indigenous, and the future likelihood of an even higher proportion, the University’s engagement with the Indigenous community is a vital component of the economic and social development of the Northern Territory. This policy recognises the culture, history, uniqueness and diversity of the Indigenous community and commits to forging mutually beneficial relationships with the Indigenous community, built upon a foundation of trust and respect.

CDU has a commitment to creating an organisational culture and environment conducive to Indigenous engagement and this includes:

• The establishment of the Indigenous Academic Support Unit.
• The appointment of a Pro Vice Chancellor Indigenous Leadership with specific responsibilities across the whole institution.
• An Indigenous Employment policy.
• A School of Australian Indigenous Knowledge Systems dedicated to fostering and promoting research in Indigenous knowledge.
• Flexible teaching methodologies that cater for remote and rural communities.
• Teaching Yolngu Matha language at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.