Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, said today there are more than 70 projects under way or being developed through a partnership between the Territory Government and Charles Darwin University.

“The projects demonstrate that Territorians are addressing economic, social and environmental issues in urban centres and particularly regionally where there is a considerable need,” Mr Chandler said.

He was addressing the Charles Darwin University Symposium 2013 which has the theme *Indigenous Knowledges in a Changing World.* The symposium is an initiative of the CDU/Northern Territory Government Partnership Agreement.

“The challenge for everyone attending the symposium is to explore how Indigenous knowledge can be applied in economic and commercial ventures and to recognise and promote the role of Indigenous knowledge in the world today.

“I am sure there will be outcomes from issues raised at the symposium that will have benefits for people in the bush; these will complement the Country Liberals Government’s investment in the bush.

“Some of the many partnership projects centre on remote communities, such as a project to examine demographic and social change in remote settlements and replacement of diesel generators with more sustainable forms of energy.

“There are challenges in adding economic value and getting the regions moving forward, indeed speakers touched on this at the seminars yesterday.

“On the subject of challenges for tourism, business speakers mentioned time-consuming red tape, fitting into a Western model, marketing, competition in the sector and reduced income in the Wet Season.
"I have no doubt that local issues such as these are being worked on through the partnership projects as the partnership recognises the importance of having teachers and research people who understand the issues, live here and are committed to the Territory.

“The partnership also recognises the importance of being able to receive a tertiary education close to home.

“In the future we will have many more well-grounded Territorians who are able to translate Indigenous knowledge into successful economic activity, particularly in regional areas, and advance its role in society."

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