Six Charles Darwin University music students will get an opportunity of a lifetime when they join Elton John’s production team backstage as a part of his upcoming concert on May 17.

Education Minister, Marion Scrymgour, met with vocational and educational training (VET) students Phil Agar, Leigh Chisholm, Derek Hunter, Patrick Mackenzie, Julie Andreou and Gerald Berkenhoff today at TIO Stadium.

Ms Scrymgour said there was a lot of excitement about Saturday’s show – and the fact it would provide a great experience for music industry students was an added bonus.

“It’s a chance for our students to see the complex work that goes on backstage to keep such a massive show running smoothly,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“Providing practical experience is a key part of our VET courses and this is a great example of students getting first hand exposure to industry.

“With more than 20,000 students in VET courses - we are training Territorians to fill the positions created by our fast growing economy.”

The Northern Territory Government has provided $136,000 in funding for CDU’s delivery of the Diploma of Music (Technical Production) over 2007 and 2008.

Course co-coordinator and Lecturer Contemporary Music, Cal Williams, said the students, currently studying for their Diploma of Music (Technical Production), would be working “behind-the-scenes” at the multi-million dollar music spectacular.

“The show includes a large production crew and nine semi-trailer loads of equipment,” Mr Williams said.
“Audiences are rarely privy to the complex, highly technical activities undertaken by the audio and lighting crews to run such a big event successfully.

Mr Williams said the Diploma Music students were familiar with running events on a small to medium scale and had experience in sound systems, studio recording and general performance skills – this will give them exposure to a large scale production.

*Media contact: Geoff Fraser 0407 360 256*