



CDU-NTG Partnership Agreement – Collaboration Committees

Terms of Reference

The aim of the Charles Darwin University (CDU) – Northern Territory Government (NT Government) Partnership Agreement is to strengthen the outcomes from the existing relationship between CDU and the NT Government by identifying shared strategic objectives in the areas of education, research, community engagement, capacity building, industry development, policy development and social inclusion.

The Agreement recognises the importance of a mutually beneficial and collaborative relationship between CDU and the NT Government to ultimately deliver outcomes for the Northern Territory. It provides a structured mechanism for Government agencies to work with the University and vice versa.

The NT Government and CDU first established a Partnership Agreement in 2003. The Partnership Agreement has been revised and updated three times. The current Agreement was signed in 2017 and expires in 2024.

Committee Structure

The aim of the governance structure is to allow for targeted meetings and actions on issues and projects of mutual benefit and interest with relevant NT Government agency and CDU officers, with the aim of reducing red tape and and minimising reporting requirements.

The focus of each of the Collaboration Committees is to provide opportunities for targeted engagement between CDU and NT Government agencies on strategic areas of interest, including:

- Investment and Business
- Health
- Social Policy
- Natural Resource Management
- Primary Production
- Education
- Arts
- Community Safety

Objectives

The objectives of the Collaboration Committees will be to:

- identify existing and emerging areas for collaboration including on:
 - responding to the NT's workforce needs;
 - identifying areas of research collaboration; and



- working together in regionally and with impact, especially for First Nations people.
- enhance engagement between CDU and the NT Government to:
 - work together on shared priorities;
 - establish Memoranda of Understanding or Partnership Project Schedules, if required to deliver on agreed priorities;
 - establish joint appointments and secondments; and
 - build intellectual capacity throughout the Northern Territory

Governance

- Meetings will be Co-chaired by CDU and the NT Government
- Members may decide on a new Co-chair should the situation arise
- Meetings will be held at least bi-annually
- Collaboration Committees will report to the Executive Committee and provide a brief update of activity for Executive Committee meetings (on a rolling schedule decided by the Executive Committee).
- Co-chairs of the Collaboration Committees will meet as required.

Scope

The Collaboration Committees are project groups and are responsible for facilitating project delivery and should not assume responsibilities that would otherwise lie with NT Government agencies or CDU.

The Collaboration Committees may form Working Groups or other structures (such as a Steering or Coordination groups) to deliver projects. The structure of any Working Group should be flexible in order to meet changing requirements.

A Collaboration Committee may develop an MOU between CDU and a particular NT Government agency or have several different Working Groups, depending on the work program.

The Working Groups may have one or multiple NTG Government agencies and CDU colleges represented.

Membership

Membership of Collaboration Committees:

- will be relevant Executive Directors/Senior Staff from the NT Government and CDU
- will allow for flexibility in targeted additional members at the discretion of the Co-chairs
- should have approximately equal numbers of CDU and NT Government members where possible.

Resources/Budget



- Committees will be supported by the Coordination Team, with minutes taken by a committee member or their support staff.
- No further resources, financial or otherwise are available to the Committees. Should collaborative work require resources, this will be met by existing resource allocation processes within both CDU and the NTG.