

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

The Northern Territory's (NT) education sector is internationally regarded for the depth and diversity of its research, teaching and training activity. Education is an important and growing export industry for the Northern Territory and is integral to the NT's broader agenda to strengthening relationships with its Asian neighbours. The NT currently boasts education, research and exchange partnerships with China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong and other Asian nations.



DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES

From a conferencing perspective there are multiple opportunities for event organisers to tap into on-ground education projects, and local experts aligned with the NT's industry strengths. These include but are not limited to indigenous education, tropical health, renewable energy and disaster management training.

The NT's university, **Charles Darwin University** (CDU), is ranked in the top 2% of universities in the world by Times Higher Education. The university delivers more than 75 nationally recognised and accredited programs on-campus and online. Approximately 75% of the university's higher education students study online and in 2014, CDU's international education programmes were recognised with an **Austrade National Export Award** for excellence and innovation.



More recently CDU won the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Education and Training Award at the Chief Minister's Northern Territory Export and Industry Awards (2015 and 2016). For this reason Darwin was chosen to host the *Australia and New Zealand Blackboard Teaching and Learning Conference* in 2017, the focus of which was on the use of technology in education and collaborating on best practice. The new CDU Darwin Waterfront Campus provided an excellent venue to showcase the Northern

Territory's strength in innovative education delivery.

The Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education was established as an educational institution to provide tertiary education to Indigenous Australians through education and training programs. The Institute also plays a strong role in the area of Indigenous creative arts, Indigenous language maintenance and linguistics and in informing future Indigenous education. The Institute is home to the **CALL collection**, a digital collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language materials. The Institute and CDU have also established **The Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Education** which is focussed on delivering higher education, undergraduate and post graduate course work programs for Indigenous Australians.

The 'world's largest classroom'—the **Alice Springs School of the Air**—delivers lessons to some 120 students across 1.3 million square kilometres of the Central Australian outback. International students can also be enrolled; the school has taught students in Sweden and the USA and can broadcast to China. The most powerful distance learning platform and video conferencing technology is used to teach students from preschool to year 9, who live on cattle stations, outback communities and tourist facilities or who are travelling with their families.

From a research perspective, being one of few advanced economies located in the tropics, the NT is well-placed to deliver research programmes tailored to the region and is particularly renowned for its expertise in **tropical health, engineering and disaster management**.

CDU was ranked by Reuters in the top four universities in Australia

and New Zealand for research quality in Environmental Science. Home to the Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods (RIEL), CDU's environmental research programmes specialise in a multidisciplinary approach to exploring the relationship between people and country and how this impacts the management of natural resources. With 50 scientists, 75 PhD students and 75 honorary adjunct research fellows in partner institutions, industry and Government, there is a wealth of on-ground research expertise accessible to conferences that come to the NT. CDU's **Menzies School of Health Research**, also internationally renowned, conducts research into issues of major public health importance in the Asia-Pacific region. Areas of research include chronic diseases such as cancer, kidney disease and heart disease, as well as mental health, nutrition, substance abuse, child health and development. The Menzies-led research undertaken on malaria and conducted in more than 20 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, is deemed to have saved thousands of lives.



The NT's **National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre** (NCCTRC) in Darwin responds to incidents that pose significant health threats both onshore in Australia and offshore in the Asia Pacific region. A significant disaster medical research program supports its operations, and the NCCTRC is a key partner

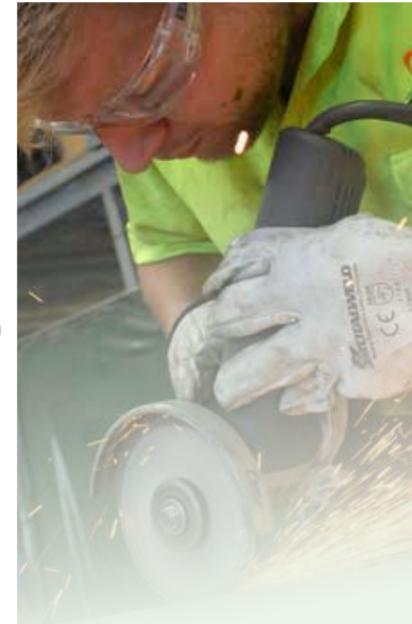
in the development of the World Health Organisation's standards and classification guidelines for foreign medical teams. Related conferences often incorporate a visit to the NCCTRC as part of their programme to gain an insight into this unique operation.

The NT has a fast-growing reputation in **oil and gas education and training** through the North Australian Centre for Oil and Gas (NACOG) at CDU. The centre is located close to Timor-Leste and South-East Asia, and students can access a wealth of understanding about NT conditions and their potential impact on resources.

CDU's Centre for **Renewable Energy** complements NACOG with expertise in working with industry, power utilities and government to develop renewable energy options specifically for the demanding conditions associated with remote off-grid operations in northern and Central Australia. Desert Knowledge in Central Australia also offers rich learning opportunities onsite at their energy hub in Alice Springs.



"Alice Springs is Australia's iconic capital of solar, and with enormous skills and know-how delivering energy in remote regions both here and overseas, we want to share this experience with the energy solutions market."
Lauren Ganley CEO Desert Knowledge Australia



INNOVATION IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Aboriginal Corporation

The Congress medical service commenced in Alice Springs in 1975, employing a doctor and an Aboriginal health worker. Congress today has over 350 employees with more than 50% identifying as Aboriginal. The service provides culturally appropriate community-controlled services that are welcoming for Aboriginal people. Congress has established an Aboriginal Health Practitioner Training Program, implemented internal Indigenous Mentoring Program, has a Cadetship Program and currently has almost 50 staff members undertaking VET qualifications.

Families as First Teachers Programme

The NT Department of Education operates an early learning programme for children up to five years of age. The programme operates in 30 remote Aboriginal schools as well as two schools in Darwin. It is delivered by a local Aboriginal family liaison officer and a qualified teacher. The programme plays an important role in promoting the position of working women in remote communities, encouraging job sharing to allow mothers with family and cultural commitments to work part-time.

CONFERENCE SUCCESS STORY



Leading agricultural scholars met in Darwin in 2017 to share innovations and research as part of the Nuffield Australia National Conference. Nuffield scholarships are awarded to pioneers of agriculture to enable them to investigate technological advances in their field from around the world. The conference in Darwin attracted 300 delegates to share the latest insights in their fields of endeavour.

The theme of the conference was 'New Horizons' which explored the application of innovation and new technology to the agricultural sector. Keynote speakers included Gina Rinehart, Executive Chairman of the Hancock Prospecting Group and S. Kidman and Co. Ms Rinehart talked about how technology from mining and other sectors could be applied to the agricultural sector in order to improve efficiencies, production quality and safety.

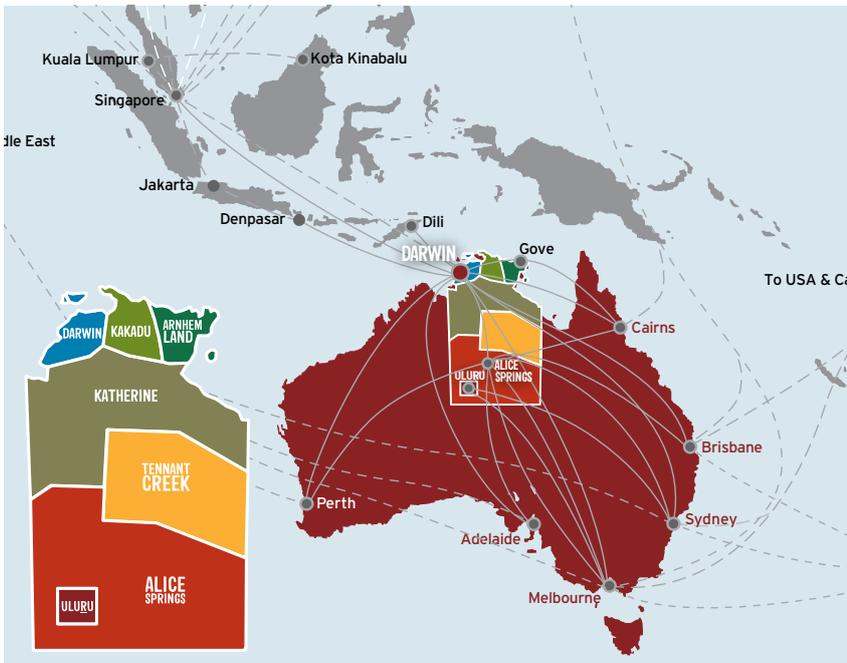
NT local, Dan Richards of Humpty Doo Barramundi, spoke at the event on about international seafood and aquaculture production, technologies and market trends. Richards was a 2016 Nuffield Scholar which provided him with the opportunity to travel internationally to study large scale seafood production and research projects. Humpty Doo Barramundi distributes about 40,000 kg of fresh barramundi per week into domestic and export markets. Delegates to the Nuffield Australia National Conference were able to undertake an interesting technical tour of the business, as part of the conference program.

Other post-conference technical tours included visits to local beef, tropical fruit and crocodile farms, highlighting how conference delegates can receive invaluable educational insights from national leaders in a diverse range of fields when visiting the NT.

WHY MEET IN THE NT?

Australia's Northern Territory has a proven track record at boosting delegate attendance due to its strong destination appeal, as well as its direct relevance to the education and research sector. The destination provides a depth of local expertise from individuals and community organisations who can enhance an NT event with potential guest speakers, delegates, sponsors and exhibitors. NT not-for-profit organisations can also benefit reciprocally from socially responsible or legacy activities that Business Events can generate. There is further opportunity to facilitate connections with local experts and organisations through technical tours and off-site visits to local facilities to meet with like-minded industry colleagues.

The Northern Territory is just two hours flying time from its nearest Asian neighbour. It is accessible from all major airports throughout Australia, as well as intra-Territory flights between the key business event destinations of Darwin, Alice Springs and Uluru.



EXTRAORDINARY REGIONS

The NT has seven regions, each with distinct climates and amazingly different terrain and attractions, as well as an ancient and rich Indigenous culture. The lush and tropical "Top End" region at the northernmost tip of Australia includes the cosmopolitan harbour-front city of Darwin, plus the World Heritage-listed Kakadu, Australia's largest national park. With a natural harbour, river estuaries and a coastline more than 5,000 kilometres long, the Top End is a fishing, sailing and cruising paradise. Further south, lies the stunning desert landscape of the "Red Centre", which is home to icons such as Uluru (Ayers Rock), Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) and Alice Springs, the quintessential Australian outback town. Iconic activities include camel rides across the desert, dot-painting workshops and magical outback dinners under the stars.



NORTHERN TERRITORY CONVENTION BUREAU (NTCB)

The NTCB is the business events division of Tourism NT, which sits within the NT Government's Department of Tourism and Culture. The bureau's role is to market and promote the Northern Territory as a distinctive and effective business events destination. With strong local knowledge, experience and extensive links to business and government networks, the bureau provides free expert advice and assistance to business event planners. The NTCB team can assist with bid preparation, destination information and supplier liaison to deliver an inspiring and memorable NT event.

FIND OUT MORE

Call: 1800 656 209

Email: info@ntconventions.com.au

Web: ntconventions.com.au

