



BACHELOR INSTITUTE
OF INDIGENOUS TERTIARY EDUCATION



Northern Territory Government

Partnership Agreement

2011 – 2013

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

**BACHELOR INSTITUTE OF INDIGENOUS
TERTIARY EDUCATION**

AND

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

AGREEMENT made the xx day of xx 2010.

BETWEEN:

BACHELOR INSTITUTE OF INDIGENOUS TERTIARY EDUCATION, Nurndina Street, Batchelor, Northern Territory (**Batchelor Institute**) constituted under the *Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education Act 1999*,

AND:

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT of Australia (the **NTG**).

PREAMBLE

The Batchelor Institute and the Northern Territory Government are committed to the development of the Institute as a thriving teaching institution that supports economic and social outcomes for Indigenous people in the Northern Territory.

Batchelor Institute is a specialist public tertiary education institution that provides accredited vocational education and training and higher education programs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Northern Territory Government is a significant employer of Indigenous Territorians, particularly in remote areas, and has a priority focus on improving outcomes for Indigenous Territorians.

This Partnership Agreement recognises the productive and collaborative relationship which exists between the Northern Territory Government and Batchelor Institute as each seeks to achieve greater Indigenous participation in the economic and social development of the Northern Territory. A number of objectives are shared by both Parties as they strive toward this goal. These shared objectives form the basis of this Partnership Agreement.

This Partnership Agreement will build upon the foundation and outcomes created by the previous Partnership Agreement (2007-2010) and will further develop existing links between Batchelor Institute, NTG and the wider community.

COMMENCEMENT

This Partnership Agreement commences on 1 January 2011.

1. Shared Vision

The economic and social development of the Northern Territory is supported by a robust and resilient Batchelor Institute working in partnership with government agencies, industry and the wider community to deliver education and training programs.

2. Overarching Aim

To reinforce and expand upon a mutually productive and cooperative relationship between Batchelor Institute and the NTG that will result in lasting benefits to improve the economic and social outcomes of Indigenous Territorians.

3. Context and Undertakings

The Partnership Agreement operates in a unique Northern Territory setting. The Parties to the Partnership Agreement recognise the unique needs and opportunities that exist in this environment, and support a shared framework of understanding in addressing these needs and harnessing opportunities.

3.1 Cultural Diversity

The Northern Territory's cultural diversity is an asset that benefits the entire community. Indigenous Territorians comprise almost 30% of the total population. The strength, diversity, resilience, and cultural integrity of Northern Territory Indigenous peoples are qualities widely recognised and acknowledged, both within Australia and the international community.

3.2 Knowledge and Innovation

The Parties will work jointly to build a knowledge base of strategies to improve Indigenous outcomes and wellbeing. Combining expertise in this area will help the Northern Territory take a leading role in achieving outcomes for Indigenous people and contribute to the national and international development of Indigenous policy and program responses.

3.3 Working Together

3.3.1 The Parties agree to increase collaboration and joint investment in agreed priority areas in skills development. Other stakeholders with a key interest in the outcomes may be involved in the development of projects and encouraged to become joint investment partners.

3.3.2 The Parties acknowledge the existing strategic business priorities of each party, as stated in policy and planning documents and recognise that these may change over time. The structure of the Partnership Agreement enables the Parties to realign their mutual priorities during the life of the Partnership Agreement.

4. Key Objectives

The Parties recognise that Indigenous economic participation, community safety and wellbeing, and regional development are inter-linked.

4.1 Key Objective 1: Improving Indigenous Education, Training and Economic Participation

The objective is to improve Indigenous economic participation through:

- (a) education and training programs which are designed, delivered and assessed in accordance with clearly identified needs and objectives and linked to employment opportunities in the community; and
- (b) Indigenous workforce development that focuses on meeting government, industry and community needs; and

4.2 Key Objective 2: Enhancing Indigenous Health, Safety and Lifestyle

The objective is to improve the social and cultural outcomes of Indigenous communities through:

- (a) courses and programs that advance Indigenous knowledge and skills and build community and governance capacity; and
- (b) supporting the involvement of Indigenous Territorians in the delivery of services, including health, education, early childhood and community safety services;

5. Core Outcomes

Partnership activities will focus on achieving the following Core Outcomes:

- 5.1 Increasing the number and quality of Batchelor Institute graduates.
- 5.2 Courses relevant to industry, community and government needs that are relevant and appropriate, seek to achieve real employment outcomes and provide seamless pathways for lifelong learning, including practical options to move between secondary education, VET, higher education sectors and employment.
- 5.3 Courses to address recognised skill shortages and respond to the identified needs of Indigenous people across a diversity of life situations, including those in prison, while building capacity to support community and regional development.
- 5.4 Courses to support Northern Territory Government agencies meet their workforce capability requirements and service delivery needs.
- 5.5 Structures and processes that facilitate shared communication of strategic priorities, staff and other resources.

6. Implementation

There will be a range of activities which relate to one or more of the objectives and outcomes of the Partnership.

7. Governance

The Parties are committed to the principles of best practice in corporate governance, recognising that strong and accountable governance is directly linked to achieving practical outcomes that may be measured in both quantitative and qualitative forms.

7.1 Peak Group

7.1.1 The Partnership Agreement will be governed by a Peak Group which will:

- provide leadership across the full range of Partnership activities, including the development of frameworks for the Partnership;
- establish working groups to resolve issues of mutual significance; and
- undertake any other activity consistent with the desired outcomes and objectives of the Partnership Agreement.

7.1.2 The Peak Group will comprise three representatives of Batchelor Institute, to be nominated by the Director, and three representatives of the NTG, to be nominated by the Chief Executive, Department of Chief Minister.

7.1.3 The Peak Group will be alternately chaired by a member representing Batchelor Institute and a member representing the NTG.

7.2 Evaluation

7.2.1 The Peak Group will conduct an annual evaluation of progress and outcomes under the Partnership Agreement and report this to Batchelor Institute Council and the Northern Territory Government.

7.2.2 The evaluation will be based on calendar years.

7.2.3 A formal review will be conducted commencing at least six months prior to the end of the Partnership Agreement term.

7.3 Variation

The Partnership Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties. The Parties may also establish other arrangements to further the objectives of the Partnership Agreement.

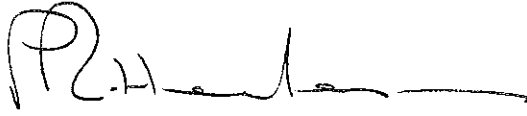
8. Term

The term of the Partnership Agreement is three years.

EXECUTED as an Agreement

SIGNED for and on behalf of the
Northern Territory Government

by
**The Hon Paul Henderson, MLA,
Chief Minister**



In the presence of;



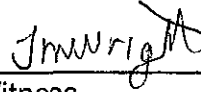
Witness

SIGNED for and on behalf of
**Batchelor Institute of Indigenous
Tertiary Education**

by
**Professor Yvonne Cadet-James
Chairperson, Batchelor Institute
Council**

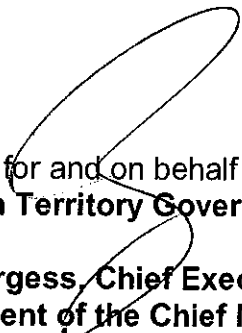


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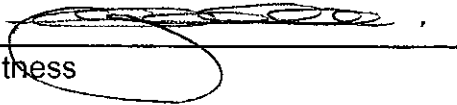


Witness

SIGNED for and on behalf of the
Northern Territory Government
by
**Mike Burgess, Chief Executive,
Department of the Chief Minister**



In the presence of:



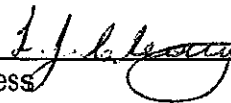
Witness

SIGNED for and on behalf of
**Batchelor Institute of Indigenous
Tertiary Education**

by
Adrian Mitchell, Director



In the presence of:



Witness