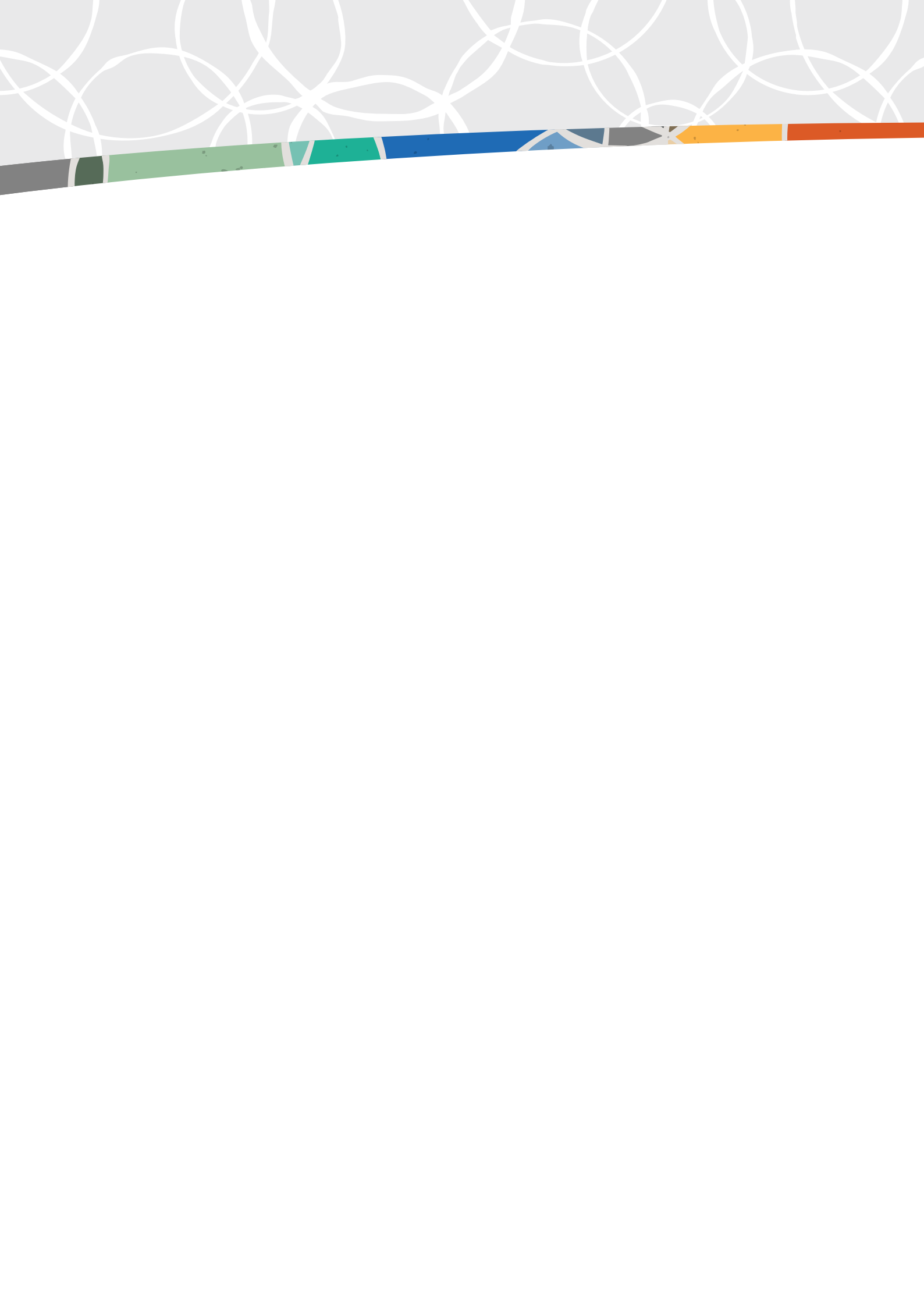




Batchelor
Institute

Research Plan
2016–2020

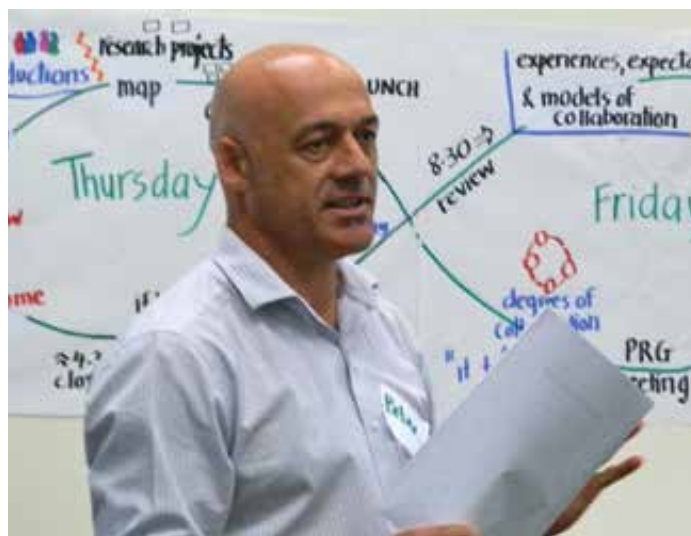


Contents

Research at Batchelor	4
Where we are	5
First Nations	6
Our Research Approach	6
Innovation	6
Recognition, transfer and support of First Nations' Knowledges	6
Partnership	6
Cultural responsiveness, recognition and attribution of Knowledges	7
Research Office at Batchelor Institute	8
Key Objectives for 2016-2020	8
Researchers and Associates	8
First Nations' Researchers and Research Fund	8
Batchelor Institute Graduate School	9
Key Objectives	9
Graduate Attributes	9
Centre for Collaborative First Nations' Research	10
Key Objectives	10
Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics (CALL)	11
Batchelor Press	11
Key Objectives	11
Pillars	12
Pillar 1:	12
Pillar 2:	12
Pillar 3:	13
Pillar 4:	13
Pillar 5:	14
Reviewing process	14



Batchelor Institute PhD candidate, Robyn Ober



Dr Peter Stephenson—Executive Director, Higher Education and Research

Research at Batchelor

The Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education is unique in the Australian educational landscape as the only First Nations' tertiary education and research Institute. Under its Both-ways system, the Institute provides an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lens to a mainstream education and research system. At the centre of Batchelor's success is its Higher Degree by Research programs, and its well-respected applied research activity across Education, Creative Industries, Languages and Livelihoods, all areas identified as significant to support and engage First Nations' Communities.

Our research approach at Batchelor Institute privileges the voices of First Nations' Peoples and Communities by engaging in culturally-enriched research that promotes innovation and agency. Through partnerships with Communities, Peoples, industry, and government, our research engages a strengths-based approach to Education, the Creative Industries, Languages and Livelihoods.

Formed in 2016, the Centre for Collaborative First Nations' Research and the Batchelor Institute Graduate School joined the highly-regarded Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics in providing leadership across the delivery of our research programs.

The Institute is one of two publicly funded tertiary education institutions in the Northern Territory, and is supported by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments. As Australia's only First Nations' tertiary education and research institute, and with a mandate to contribute to Australia's national identity, Batchelor Institute receives both National Institutes and University-focused research funding from the Federal Government. These funded programs underpin our research development across the research centres and the Graduate School.

Research at Batchelor also engages in a range of contract research and other fee-for-service activities. Operating in an increasingly competitive environment, our research both responds to, and informs, changing government policy and the increasingly complex demands of industry while ensuring the perspectives and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities and Peoples are privileged.

The Institute is known for providing a culturally safe and robust education and research training environment and for advancing the aspirations of many First Nations' Peoples across Australia. For more than forty years Batchelor Institute has provided a unique and sustained contribution to the cultural, social and economic development of Australia.



Batchelor Institute's campus at the Desert Peoples Centre, Alice Springs

Where we are

The Institute has two major campuses within the Northern Territory, in Batchelor, a 100 km south-west Darwin, on the country of the Kungarakana and Warai Peoples, and the second in Alice Springs, on the country of the Arrernte Peoples. The Institute also has a number of smaller campuses and a range of programs across rural and remote Northern Territory.

As a 'National Institute', our research is local, Territory-based, national and international in scope, with much of our research traversing these geographic boundaries. Our researchers, associates and candidates are based locally, nationally and internationally.



Main campus and community campus locations



The Institute's main campus at Batchelor



A student enjoying the Institute's vibrant surroundings

First Nations

First Nations' Peoples/Communities are terms used to describe the hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nations and their Peoples, wherever they reside. We also use First Nations to support an empowered naming of international First Nations' Communities and Peoples. The term Community is used to support a collective framing of language and geographic-based First Nations' Communities on their own homelands, as well as to describe those First Nations' Communities and Peoples who reside outside of their historic areas, forming identifiable Communities.

Both framings include urban, remote, regional, linguistic, very remote, Nation-based or geographic Communities.

Please note that the capitalisation of Communities, Peoples and Nations is out of respect and operates as a short-form for a proper noun (i.e Aboriginal Communities/Community, Aboriginal Peoples, First Nations' Communities etc). The term community of practice - not capitalised, in line with the literature - is used to describe industry groups (educators, health professionals, artists, business owners) as well as groups that are formed out of any other practice-base.

Our Research Approach

A Both-ways approach underpins how we conduct research, with an approach that privileges the voices, aspirations and perspectives of First Nations' Peoples.

Both-ways is a complex system that acknowledges both First Nations' epistemologies and the structures of mainstream education and research. Researchers ascribing to the principles of the Both-ways system employ an approach to knowledge gathering, analysing and sharing that places the Community and Peoples as the central source of knowledge and the primary source for dissemination. This challenges colonial views of data gathering and disconnected dissemination to an academic audience. This approach also acknowledges the diversity of views and ideas from a range of Communities and cohorts within Communities and a responsibility to share information with the Communities and Peoples from which the knowledge is sought.

Central across our activities is the generation of research that affirms, promotes, and is guided by the contemporary perspectives of First Nations' Peoples - a process required by actively engaging the concept of Both-ways. By applying the following measures of culturally-engaged research, we ensure that our research supports the input and agency of First Nations' Peoples, Communities and communities-of-practice at a global level.

Innovation

Our research seeks out sites of innovation to support the strategic aspirations of First Nations' Communities and Peoples. Comparative and collaborative approaches to understanding innovation are central to this innovative research practice.



Batchelor Institute PhD Candidate, Delvene Cockatoo-Collins conducting a weaving workshop at the State Library of QLD.

Recognition, transfer and support of First Nations' Knowledges

Our approach privileges existing, emerging and aspirational First Nations' Knowledges, and provides a platform for shared Knowledge-creation and wide dissemination.

Partnership

Local, national and international partnerships and collaborations are central to our research approach. Through collaboration with First Nations' Peoples, Communities and industries, the government sector and wider industry, and through our research relationships with First Nations and non-Indigenous scholars, we engage research to support the aspirations of First Nations' Peoples.



Cultural responsiveness, recognition and attribution of Knowledges

Our research activities are in constant process of culturally-reflective change. For decades the Institute has conducted research activities with, and for, Communities and government, supported by a practical approach. As we move into new modes of research activity that reflect the Institute's strategic direction, we draw strength from our connections to First Nations' Communities, Peoples, and recognise the importance of the trust that they place in our research. It is a central tenet of our approach that First Nations' Knowledges and innovation observed or engaged with by our researchers and research associates, will always be acknowledged and attributed to those People and/or that Community.

PhD and Masters Candidates from the Graduate School, and our Elder: Executive Advisor Academic and Cultural Leadership, Dr Sue Stanton, at a workshop presentation at our Batchelor Campus. Visiting CCFNR Associates, Professor Jeff Berglund (Northern Arizona University) and Associate Professor Bronwyn Carlson (University of Wollongong) discuss their research.

Researchers and Associates

Our community of researchers, associates and partnering organisations work with Communities and communities of practice to build on First Nations' research. Researchers across the four areas of scholarly inquiry are drawn from the Institute's experienced Higher and Further Education staff, from our Centre researchers, and with further expertise from our senior management.

As an identified National Institute with a focus on collaboration and engagement across all areas that service First Nations Peoples' and Communities, we also draw on a wide range of researchers and associates from across the Territory, the nation, and through our international associations, to contribute to our research.

First Nations' Researchers and Research Fund

The establishment of a First Nations' Researchers and Research Fund will provide support to early and speculative research inquiry, fellowships and the first stages of collaboration across new, emerging or complex areas. Formal funding is often focused on an established national imperative or based on already proven ideas, and is subsequently risk-averse. As an institution that focuses on innovation emerging from Communities and communities of practice, and with an approach that encourages preliminary conceptual inquiry, a fund that supports these activities assists significantly in growing the national focus on areas of relevance to First Nations' Communities and Peoples.

Sourced from charitable donations, promotions and bequests, the Fund will provide the following.

- seed investment in speculative national-priority activity across the four core areas of research
- fellowships funding for First Nations' staff researchers to develop research pathways
- fellowships for internal and external researchers to undertake collaborative research with Batchelor Institute
- seminars and activity that promotes collaboration and knowledge-transfer at a local, national and international level



Research Office at Batchelor Institute

The Research Office provides a stewardship and strategic leadership for ensuring the needs of First Nations' Peoples and Communities are met. The Office has an oversight responsibility for evaluation, reporting, and support for all areas of research, and manages the reporting to Communities, the Institute, our partners and government.

Key Objectives for 2016–2020

- Establish a First Nations' Researchers and Research Fund to develop research across our areas of concentration, within the local, national and international context.
- Develop and foster projects that further establish the reputation of researchers within the Institute as national and international leaders, with a particular focus on fostering a cohort of First Nations researchers.
- Maintain and build small grants and conference funding for researchers at the Institute, with an emphasis on areas of research concentration.
- Establish and grow international and national staff and research candidate exchanges and/or placements.
- Sustain increase in national competitive, international, community, industry and government contract research and grants.
- Foster formal and informal research connections at a local, national and international level.
- Further develop a space of scholarly inquiry across the internal research-invested staff to encourage discussion of research relevant to First Nations' Peoples.
- Supporting First Nations' and non-Indigenous researchers to engage complex sites of inquiry across the First Nations' research space.
- Provide a research location for the Institute's internal research and evaluation demands.

Batchelor Institute Graduate School

Our Graduate School is focused on providing research candidates and postgraduate students with a unique experience that reflects a robust, First Nations' approach to research training and advanced learning. Our candidates are supported in a Both-ways inquiry across the fields of Education, Languages, Creative Industries and Livelihoods. The candidate is encouraged to learn and engage with Communities, the research sector, their community of practice, and to understand their opportunities to engage in further research.

The Graduate School houses our PhD and Masters by Research programs focusing on Indigenous Perspectives. As the Graduate School develops, post-graduate coursework programs will be introduced across our research concentrations to reflect the core needs of our Communities and communities of practice.

As a small cohort located nationally, PhD and Masters candidates work with their supervisory panel, that will include at least one First Nations' researcher. Candidates will create a project that supports their career aspirations and research training expectations, and over the life of their research degree will be exposed to Community-centred, national and international influences across their field of inquiry.



Dr David Hardy receiving the Northern Territory Government Department of Education award for most outstanding achievement by a Higher Degrees by Research graduand from Dr Kevin Gillan, Executive Director, Education Partnerships.

Key Objectives

- Maintain a culturally-relevant research training hub for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Candidates across the areas of research concentration
- Deliver programs that are underpinned by excellence, a Both-ways system that privileges a respectful approach to research inquiry and knowledge transfer
- Support candidates to develop a meaningful pathway in careers across research and industry
- Design and deliver coursework programs that provide advanced skill-sets for educators and across the creative industries
- Prioritise the engagement of First Nations' candidates from Australia and internationally
- Provide research and program experiences that enhance the understanding and appreciation of First Nations' ways of being and knowing

Graduate Attributes

- embrace a Both-ways philosophy in lifelong learning and professional practice
- have self confidence and a strong sense of identity
- value learning, critical analysis, creativity and Indigenous scholarship
- be a strategic thinker who can make and implement decisions
- appreciate, value and operate in culturally and intellectually diverse environments
- work professionally and ethically, independently or with others
- accept individual and community responsibility and obligations

Centre for Collaborative First Nations' Research

Areas of Focus: Education, Creative Arts, Livelihoods

With a focus on national and international partnerships, the Centre for Collaborative First Nations' Research (CCFNR) promotes innovation and agency through research across the Creative Industries, Education, and Livelihoods.

The Centre engages a collaborative approach to First Nations' research by leveraging our expertise across the areas of Creative Industries - studio arts and creative writing to curatorship and arts management, Education - early childhood to training and higher education, and Livelihoods - across community development, employment and industry.

The Centre develops and maintains Guiding Principles by which it operates. These principles provide the measures by which we engage and collaborate with First Nations' Peoples and Communities, and with First Nations' and non-Indigenous Scholars. They contain the ethical principles that underpin research approaches within the Centre.

The activities of the Centre include local, national and international research across our areas of expertise, comparative research programs, visiting scholars, fellowships, projects, and a series of

themes and provocations. Through these activities, our First Nations' and non-Indigenous researchers work collaboratively with partners across Australia and internationally to undertake research that prioritises the perspectives of First Nations' Peoples.

Led by a First Nations' senior researcher, the Centre provides strategies that support research activity by First Nations and non-Indigenous scholars across the core areas of concentration. Working closely with our colleagues in the Batchelor Institute Graduate School, the Centre for Aboriginal Languages and Linguistics and research-invested staff across Batchelor Institute, we have developed an extensive network of Community, scholarly and industry partners in Australia and internationally. Essential to our collaboration work is the cultivation of research that enhances the lives of First Nations' Peoples.

Through the engagement of the Batchelor Institute First Nations' Researchers and Research Fund each of our programs and activities reflect the following themes:

- First Nations' industries, partnerships and innovation
- Comparative perspectives across First Nations
- First Nations' aspirations: Arts, Education and Innovation

Key Objectives

- Support the Research Office in developing First Nations' Researchers and Research program across key themes.
- Ensure that First Nations' scholars and scholarship have prominence across the Institute, and in our local, national and international work.
- Using the Centre Themes, support and carry out research that is in the local, national and international interests of First Nations' Peoples.
- Build formal and informal relationships with national and international scholars, programs, First Nations' organisations that represent First Nations' Communities and Peoples.
- Develop and support specific collaborative and comparative activity to link programs, themes and areas of expertise in the Institute as they relate to our research concentrations
- Work with the research office to develop, acquire, and acquit national competitive grants across Education, Creative Industries and Livelihoods



Research partner, Associate Professor Bronwyn Carlson (UOW) and Dr Sandy O'Sullivan, Director of the Centre for Collaborative First Nations' Research at a Forum for Indigenous Research Excellence event.

Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics (CALL)

The Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics (CALL) focuses on the research, documentation and promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. For over 30 years, CALL has undertaken research, drawn together language resources, expertise, networks and Knowledge(s) through the Institute collaboration with Communities. With significant funding from the Australian Government Indigenous Languages and Arts program, CALL's existing programs are fully funded to 2019, with work being carried out to develop these areas further in line with our institutional pillars of success.

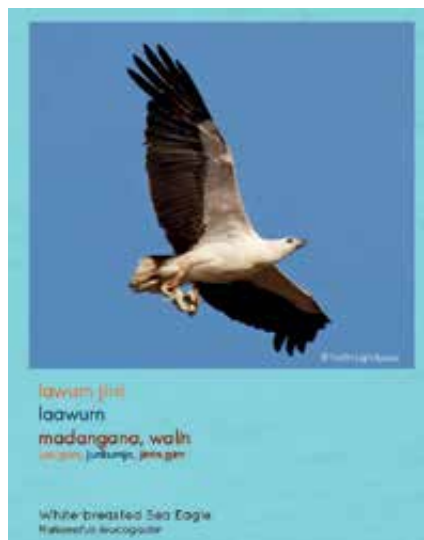
CALL continues to work to support the Arrernte Language Office at the Desert People's Centre in Central Australia, and will support the Institute in establishing an equivalent space with the Kungarakana and Warai Peoples at the Batchelor Campus.

Batchelor Press

CALL engages in important knowledge transfer work through its relationship with Batchelor Press to work with First Nations' Communities to produce culturally relevant materials. These books and media resources are of primary importance to the Community from which the Knowledges are drawn, with the Press providing a means to publish and make materials available more broadly to multiple audiences, across a range of media.



Wadeye Endangered Languages Project works with seven languages in the community, documenting stories about country, Dreamings, ethnobiology and cultural knowledge. This image is an example from a publication for the Magati Ke Rak Yederr clan.



Mowanjumb community is producing a bird book and app in three languages, Ngarinyin, Worrorra and Wunambal. The publication includes bird names in each language, birds moieties, common English names, scientific name and what birds might tell you.

Key Objectives

- To develop services and skills with a wide range of communities and communities of practice, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, First Nations' and other academics, with the aim of improving the research, preservation and promotion of Australian language.
- Maintain a comprehensive professional network including a diverse web of language specialists, facilitating links between and within Communities.
- Strengthen links and relationships between the Centre and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Community organisations, language centres, academic institutions and archives.
- Support the Community-supported transmission and communication of language-related information and access to resources between multiple stakeholders
- Facilitate culturally relevant, academically significant Community-driven language publications for multiple audiences, across a range of media.
- Work collaboratively with external archives and users to promote engagement with the CALL collection and to create a living archive that continues to build as a Keeping Place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait languages.

Pillars

Using the deliverable outcomes of the five ‘success pillars’ formed through the Institutional Strategic Plan, each Centre and School of Research at Batchelor applies the five standards to our approach to research excellence. Reflecting the Institute focus on excellence, relevance and innovation at a local, national and international level, the pillars are held against the following measures for Research at Batchelor.

Pillar 1:

A Strategic, Sustainable and Innovative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business

Through networking, collaboration and innovation, we will build a sustainable First Nations’ research program aimed at connecting with all levels of Community, industry, government, reflecting the highest standards across the education sector

To achieve this, we will:

1. Expand our creative and mutually beneficial research networks, partnerships and collaborative programs
2. Ensure our research training program and research activities are visible, recognised and strongly marketed
3. Increase our research candidate numbers - both First Nations and non-Indigenous through the positioning of an innovative and unique program
4. Grow our research income, networks and activity
5. Attract a philanthropic contribution to our collaborative research program to encourage innovative and relevant projects
6. Develop an adjunct program that is centred on engagement and collaboration across the higher education sector, industry and community

Pillar 2:

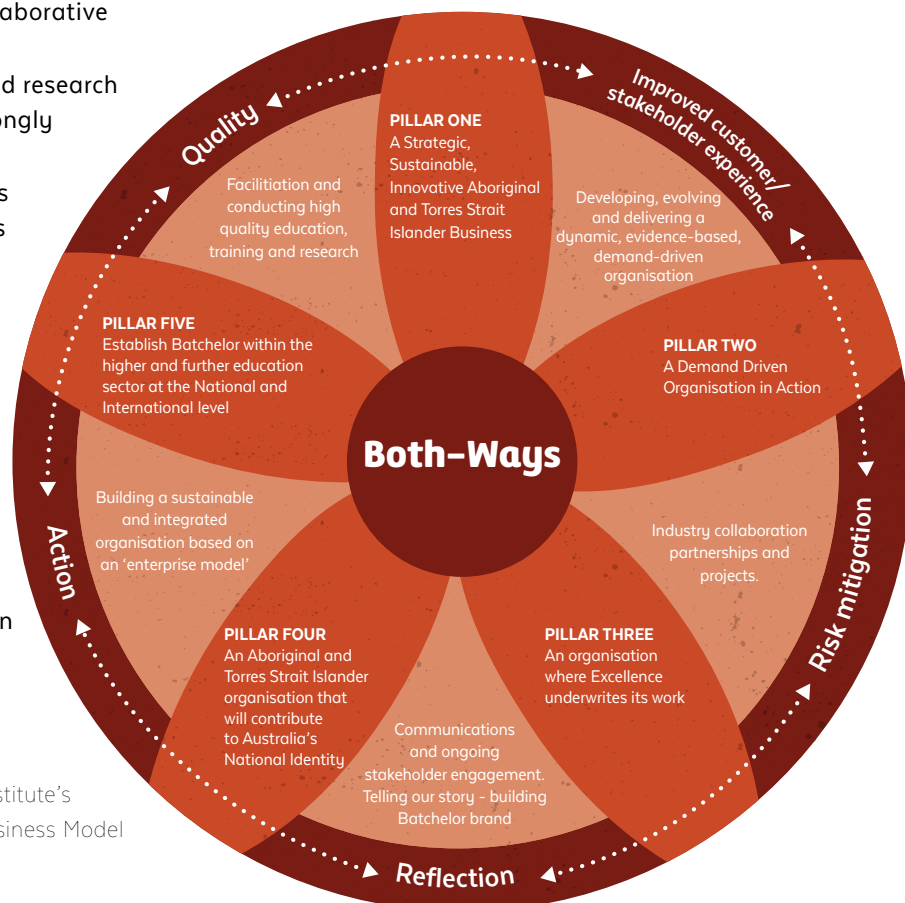
A Demand Driven Organisation in Action

The Institute will foster an innovative research program that dynamically meets the needs and aspirations of First Nations’ Communities and the businesses and governments that serve them.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Increase and strengthen our industry, community and organisational partnerships and networks.
2. Align, embed and network our research strengths and agenda to ensure a rigorous program that supports changing community and industry needs.
3. Introduce industry-leading postgraduate coursework programs, and embed industry connections across research and coursework programs within the Graduate School
4. Host regular research roundtables that invite comment from industry, community groups and our research sector to discuss key provocations to strengthen outcomes

Batchelor Institute’s
Strategic Business Model





Co-Director of CALL, Maree Klesch with the Western and Northern Aboriginal Languages Alliance (WANALA) representatives at a WANALA meeting held at the Langford Aboriginal Association's premises in 2015.

Pillar 3:

An Organisation where Excellence underwrites its work

Central to our innovative research approach is ensuring that we strengthen and build our internal communities of practice, collaborations and processes, and create a robust research environment that is conducive to supporting and realising the aspirations of First Nations' communities

To achieve this, we will:

1. Support our early career researchers and Higher Degree by Research (HDR) supervisors to network, increase research output and income, build their track record, collaborate, and grow Institute reputation - nationally and internationally
2. Increase the number of First Nations' researchers on staff through strong employment, support and retention initiatives
3. Provide a connected Institute experience for HDR candidates and postgraduate students
4. Further develop and model ethical research practices and innovative approaches to affirm the Intellectual Property of First Nations' Peoples and Communities
5. Maintain a continuous quality improvement focus through visible processes and practices of monitoring and benchmarking that demonstrate our unique vision in First Nations' research
6. Provide mentorship and support for an enhanced knowledge of national and global issues and research from, and for, First Nations' Communities, Peoples and industries.

Pillar 4:

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that will contribute to Australia's National Identity

To provide a knowledge-base from a First Nations' research perspective, position our research as central to the work of First Nations community building and to ensure that our research is able to resonate on a national stage.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Support our researchers to network, publish, promote, collaborate and engage in national and international spheres
2. Position staff to engage with select national and international committees, research granting authorities and editorial boards
3. Ensure that all key research activity includes an articulated strategy to influence national and local policy and programs and to inform public debate
4. Develop inclusive postgraduate coursework and research training opportunities for non-Indigenous student's participation that demonstrate our unique national position promoting Both-ways perspectives
5. Specifically promote our four key areas of expertise: Education, Languages, Livelihoods and Creative Industries
6. Form national partnerships around key national and international themes relevant to First Nations' Communities and industry-investment.

Pillar 5:

Establish Batchelor Institute within the higher and further education sector at the national and international level

Establish the Batchelor Institute Graduate School, Centre for Collaborative First Nations' Research and the Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics as a part of the national and international conversation on First Nations' research.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Resource and promote our distinctive research training focus, context and capability nationally and internationally
2. Produce and disseminate research and scholarship related to First Nations' Both-ways perspectives, research and practice, and that support a national conversation on the contributions of First Nations' Communities and Peoples
3. Utilise our expertise and experience to inform policy and programs for global First Nations' education and research training
4. Create formal partnerships nationally and internationally that reflect our identity, visibility and recognition as a First Nations' research institution
5. Ensure that the Graduate School, the Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics and the Centre for Collaborative First Nations' Research reflect a cohesive Community-centred approach
6. Position and support staff in engagement and leadership across relevant national and international education and research consortia and networks
7. Secure CRICOS registration and establish internationally networked research training and postgraduate coursework and research programs through the Graduate School



Dr Sandy O'Sullivan (Wiradjuri), Director - CCFNR with writer, blogger and cultural theorist, Eugenia Flynn (Larrakia/Tiwi/Chinese), Associate - CCFNR, tweeting about culture and health at the 2016 Indigenous Health May Day event at the University of Wollongong.

Reviewing process

This plan was approved by the Batchelor Institute Academic Board on 11 May 2016. It is subject to a process of review that includes reporting on research activities on a quarterly basis to Academic Board and the Institute Council and a detailed Annual Progress Report on the Research Plan to the Academic Board.





**Batchelor
Institute**

 1800 677 095

 facebook.com/BatchelorInstitute

 [@Indigenous_Inst](https://twitter.com/Indigenous_Inst)

 www.batchelor.edu.au