



**Nulungu**

Research Institute

The University of Notre Dame Australia



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA

# What we stand for

The University's Objects are at the heart of all we do as a Catholic university, striving for excellence in scholarship and research whilst supporting our students and producing graduates who are equipped to work for the common good.

Our Objects have guided our growth and development from a small but enthusiastic intake of 50 postgraduate Education students on our Fremantle Campus in 1992, to today's vibrant community of more than 12,000 students across our three national campuses.

## The Objects of The University of Notre Dame Australia are:

- a. The provision of university education, within a context of Catholic faith and values; and
- b. The provision of an excellent standard of -
  - i. Teaching, scholarship and research;
  - ii. Training for the professions; and
  - iii. Pastoral care for its students.

# Welcome to The University of Notre Dame Australia

## From the Vice-Chancellor

The story of our University is a remarkable one. It is a story of people committed to a vision of the establishment of Australia's first university based in the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Since being established over 30 years ago, we have remained committed to preparing our students for the world of work and the professions. We also continue to pride ourselves on excellence in teaching and learning, and the student experience.

We are all part of this extraordinary ongoing story; one which we can look back on with pride as we reflect on the triumphs and successes.

The richness of Notre Dame's story also comes from our shared story with the wider family of Catholic universities which we are a part of; a story which crosses every border, language, and culture, and which has been evolving for a thousand years and beyond. Today, our commitment to offer something distinctive is as strong as when we first started.

We are a university that is open to all beliefs and views.

Our students are our number one priority. Our role is more than delivery of an outstanding learning experience. We take great pride in educating the whole person, the academic, social, physical and spiritual dimensions and are deeply committed to supporting our students to help them to be the best version of themselves. In doing so, we encourage our students to thrive, and make an important contribution to our communities.

We also encourage and support our staff in the same way – to ensure each one of them are not just employees of the University, but are part of a wider community with the opportunity to make a difference.

The role of a modern Catholic university is much more than the creation and transmission of knowledge. We believe in the power of education to change lives, form good citizens, and help people be the best version of themselves. We believe in seeking truth; best achieved when, as Newman's motto states - the "heart speaks unto heart".

We not only want to create and transmit new knowledge, but we also commit to making a positive difference by undertaking research which addresses real world issues and challenges, improving the lives of people in our communities.

We invite you to join us to build a brighter and stronger future together.

**Professor Francis Campbell**  
Vice Chancellor

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The University of Notre Dame Australia is proud to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land upon which our University sits. The University acknowledges that the Fremantle Campus is located on Wadjuk Country, the Broome Campus on Yawuru Country, and the Sydney Campus on Cadigal Country.

# Nulungu Research Institute

The Nulungu Research Institute is one of three dedicated research institutes within The University of Notre Dame Australia and is based in the remote north of Western Australia on the Broome Campus.

Established in August 2008, Nulungu operates across the three campuses of The University of Notre Dame Australia in Broome, Fremantle and Sydney. Nulungu embodies research excellence, providing an Indigenous research, teaching, and academic focus for the entire University. In this context, Nulungu seeks to facilitate greater access to higher education for a diverse range of people and to create and promote opportunities for lifelong learning. The Institute also plays an important role in the local and national reconciliation conversation, ensuring an evidence-based Indigenous voice is heard.

The Institute encourages the pursuit of excellence in research primarily through the valuing of community-based Indigenous knowledge. Nulungu focuses on five core research themes - Culture, Country and Language; Transformative Learning; Aboriginal Wellbeing; Sustainable Lifeways and Cultural Security; and Policy, Practice and Evaluation.

Its focus is on the delivery of impactful transformative Indigenous research particularly within the Kimberley region but also across Western Australia and increasingly nationally and internationally.

All research is community-driven and underpinned by the philosophy of working with the

## ‘right people on the right Country in the right way’.

A key feature of Nulungu’s current and emerging research profile is the extent of collaboration with national and international academic institutions, teaching and research communities, government and industry, all within an Indigenous context. Nulungu has demonstrated the capacity to establish and maintain successful collaborations across disciplines and professional fields, secure funding from a range of sources, and complete projects of relevance and priority to the Indigenous community.

The Institute prides itself on building strategic partnerships to make a difference through collaborative community-driven research. External partnerships have been formulated with government and non-government organisations, industry, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations including peak representative bodies, as well as philanthropic bodies.

## Research Impact

Positioning Indigenous people and communities at the centre of all research, Nulungu Research Institute engages with a broad range of issues with the aim of fostering improved Indigenous futures by valuing community-based Indigenous knowledge.



### Solving climate and sustainability issues

- By foregrounding Indigenous knowledge, Nulungu projects are working to investigate and address key climate and sustainability concerns such as water usage and regenerative futures



### Restoring social justice to Indigenous people

- Hosting judiciary conferences to better equip district and supreme court judges with cultural context and practical information to support them in their work with Aboriginal people in the courts



### Improving Aboriginal wellbeing and health

- Nulungu has collaborated with the Australian National University on a Collaborative Research Network grant which specifically focused on Aboriginal wellbeing and health across the Kimberley region
- Nulungu has a working partnership with the Majarlin Kimberley Centre for Remote Health, which links the Institute’s work with a more mainstream understanding of wellbeing and health research



### Fostering community engagement

- Regular staging of community engagement initiatives and events in the Kimberley region to establish and nurture relationships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)

“The Nulungu Research Institute is an outstanding example of better practice fusing multiple disciplines and innovative partnerships with leading Indigenous and non-Indigenous organisations and community leaders.”

Anne  
Professor Anne  
(Wagaba) Poelina

# Current projects and activities

Nulungu's research activities are primarily driven by community partnerships as part of collaborative applied research initiatives. This includes a number of high-profile projects including:

**Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery – Reciprocal Accountability and Public Value in Aboriginal Organisations (PI Patrick Sullivan)**

**ARC SRI – Archives in Bark: Carved and inscribed boab trees in the Kimberley (CI Melissa Marshall)**

**ARC Linkage – Intergenerational cultural transfer of Indigenous knowledge (PI Anne Poelina, CI Sandra Wooltorton)**

**UNDA Industry-linked Early Career Researchers (ECR) Fellowship – Collaborative management of Aboriginal cultural landscapes across Northern Australia (PI Melissa Marshall) involving Kakadu National Park; WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; and Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation**

**ARC Linkage – Trade Routes (held by the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and ANU) involving Steve Kinnane as a CI**

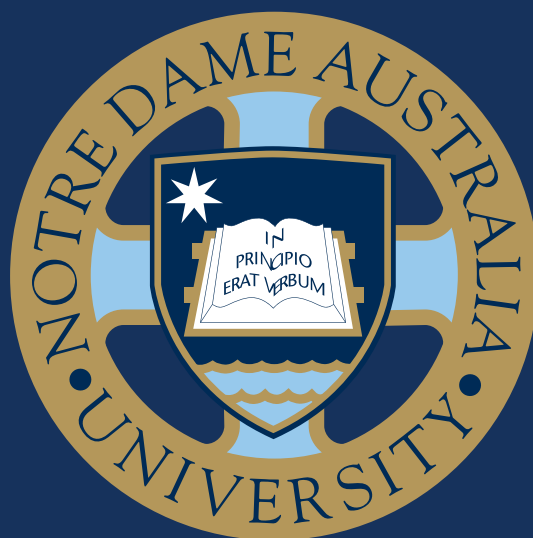
**Emerging Priorities Program – Researching school engagement of Aboriginal students and their families from regional and remote areas: Factors and interventions (CI Kathryn Thorburn)**

**Cultural immersion of the WA Judiciary and WA Police (PI Gillian Kennedy)**

**Learning How: Leading an Aboriginal Youth Safe Space (PI Sandra Wooltorton) with Millenium Kids and Ngadju Aboriginal Corporation**

**Western Australian Government funded research into the impact of COVID restrictions on Kimberley Aboriginal communities (PI Melissa Marshall, CI Kathryn Thorburn)**

# Nulungu



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