ACU National received a five-star rating for Indigenous participation in the Good Universities Guide 2006, placing it in the top 20 per cent of universities in Australia in terms of the proportion of students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent currently enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

ACU National collaborates with Indigenous communities and engages elders and other representatives of the communities in a partnership for educational advancement, and has established a strong national reputation in the field of Indigenous education, with increasing Indigenous student enrollments and strong retention rates.

In addition to a range of education, health sciences, business and informatics, arts and social science programs, the University has also designed and developed courses to specifically meet the educational and career needs of Indigenous students. These include:

- Diploma in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education
- Diploma in Business Administration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies)
- Bachelor of Education (Primary) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies)
- Bachelor of Nursing Bachelor of Applied Health Sciences (Indigenous Primary Health Care)

The Weemala Indigenous Support Unit at the Brisbane Campus is staffed by highly qualified, mainly Indigenous staff, and provides a wide range of social, cultural, personal and academic support services for Indigenous students and fosters intercultural understanding in learning areas and other activities of the University.

Weemala is complemented by the Jim-ba-ayer Indigenous Support Unit located at both the Melbourne and Ballarat campuses, and the Yalaltinga Indigenous Support Unit at Strathfield, which serves the needs of Indigenous students enrolled at the Strathfield, North Sydney and Canberra campuses.

2005 Highlights

- Cultural Awareness of Indigenous Issues was one of the workshops presented at the Brisbane Campus Social Justice Youth Forum for some 180 students from 15 South-East Queensland schools.
- The marginalisation of Australia's first inhabitants and other cultures in a country that strives to advance towards a viable reconciled future was part of a public forum, Revitalising Human Rights and Social Justice, focusing on four key areas of human rights and social justice hosted at the Strathfield Campus by the University's School of Education (NSW) together with the Independent Education Union.
- Weemala and the International Australian Studies Association (INASA) hosted a national symposium, Indigenous Issues in Australian Universities Teaching, Research, Support.
- Melbourne Campus, in association with St John's College, Darwin, hosted an exhibition of work by young Indigenous artists, talkin' about culture & country opened by respected elder Auntie Joy Murphy Wandin. The Chairman of the AFL Indigenous Foundation, Michael Long, made a guest appearance.
- Postgraduate Education student, Dean Duncan was awarded the Wedford Senate Bursary at the Brisbane Campus for researching the role of sport in the development of young Indigenous men.
- ACU National received a five-star rating for Indigenous participation in the Good Universities Guide 2006, placing it in the top 20 per cent of universities in Australia in terms of the proportion of students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent currently enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total ACU National Indigenous student enrolments</th>
<th>ACU National Indigenous student retention rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>79.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>76.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>(Source: Department of Education, Science and Training)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

— Not available at time of publication

ACU NATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2005