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welcome

Vice-Chancellor

It is with great pleasure that I make a few opening remarks for the second Annual Report of the Centre for Indigenous Education and Research (CIER) at the Australian Catholic University (ACU). Since its establishment in 2009, it has been heartening to see the Centre flourishing and successfully pursuing its objectives.

In January 2010, the Centre facilitated the acceptance of the first students into the new Bachelor of Midwifery (Indigenous Program) course at ACU. At the international level, the University was proud to call upon the Centre in October 2010 to play a key role in the celebrations of the Canonisation of Australia’s first Saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, in Rome. The event will remain a proud moment in the life of the University.

Looking forward, the Centre has already made significant headway towards achieving its projected goals for 2011, with preparations underway to award five Indigenous Research Scholarships in January 2011.

I take this opportunity to thank Professor Nereda White, Director, and the Centre’s staff, for their tireless work since the Centre’s establishment. I also wish to thank Professor Gabrielle McMullen for her valued contribution to the Centre and, upon her retirement, to welcome our new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Pauline Nugent to this role.

I applaud the Centre on its achievements in 2010 and on the valuable contribution it has made to the University and to Indigenous higher education.

Professor Greg Craven
Vice-Chancellor

Deputy-Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

The Centre for Indigenous Education and Research (CIER) is a key component in the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)'s portfolio and I am delighted in my new role to contribute to its second Annual Report.

The Vice-Chancellor has mentioned the University’s Indigenous Research Scholarships which were announced in August 2010 and reflect a strong collaboration between the Centre, the Faculties, Human Resources, Marketing and External Relations, and Slade Group recruitment services. They will provide support for five new Indigenous staff to complete higher degree studies and develop their capacity in higher education teaching.

I am particularly proud that the Centre, in partnership with Mt St Michael’s College, Ashgrove, won a 2010 Queensland Premier’s Reconciliation Award for Business, in recognition of the positive steps they have been taking in achieving reconciliation in Queensland.

The Centre’s activities extend beyond Australia’s shores, as demonstrated by the invitation from the First Nations University of Canada to ACU and Charles Darwin University to co-host the 6th International Conference of Indigenous Education, Pacific Rim. 2011 also promises new initiatives, with preparations underway to award five Indigenous Scholarship holders.

The Centre’s opportunity to stage a cultural performance in Rome during the canonisation of Mary Mackillop, host an Indigenous Theology Symposium in Brisbane, an international conference in Cairns and assist in the placement of five Indigenous Scholarship holders is testament to the progress we have made during our second year.

I would like to acknowledge the guidance and support provided by the previous DVC (Academic) Professor Gabrielle McMullen. Gabrielle has been a devoted advocate for Indigenous education and I sincerely thank her for her contribution to the success of CIER. For the future, I look forward to working with Professor Pauline Nugent, DVC Academic, to further drive CIER's goals and aspirations.

I would also like to thank Professor Greg Craven for his continued support to CIER and its Indigenous Higher Education Units.

I am quietly excited to see what challenges and successes 2011 holds in store for CIER and I look forward to leading us through the year and thereafter.

Professor Pauline Nugent
Deputy-Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Centre Director

As we reflect on 2010 for the Centre for Indigenous Education and Research (CIER), I take pride in all that we have achieved and the potential that lies ahead for us in the coming years.

2010 has been a year of great success for CIER as mentioned by Professors Craven and Nugent. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to these successes, namely ACU and CIER staff, Slade Partners, Mt St Michael’s College, Ashgrove, Charles Darwin University (CDU) and HR staff.

CIER’s opportunity to stage a cultural performance in Rome during the canonisation of Mary Mackillop, host an Indigenous Theology Symposium in Brisbane, an international conference in Cairns and assist in the placement of five Indigenous Scholarship holders is testament to the progress we have made during our second year.

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I am quietly excited to see what challenges and successes 2011 holds in store for CIER and I look forward to leading us through the year and thereafter.

Professor Nereda White
Director, Centre for Indigenous Education and Research
Foundation of the Centre for Indigenous Education and Research (CIER)

Following a review of the University’s four Indigenous Higher Education Units and endorsement of a proposed restructure by its Core Planning Group in 2008, CIER was established in 2009 within the portfolio of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). The University recognised that, although the faculties contribute in a major way to Indigenous education and research activities, strategic direction and achievement of Indigenous-related objectives should be driven by a dedicated Indigenous centre.

Director

The first stage in the implementation of CIER was the appointment in March 2009 of Professor Nereda White as the founding Director of the Centre. 

Dr Nereda White, Professor and Director of CIER, is a Gooreng Gooreng woman from the Bundaberg area of Queensland. She holds masters and doctoral qualifications in the areas of educational leadership and management and makes significant contribution to Indigenous higher education through her teaching, scholarship and leadership. 

Professor White has received two national teaching awards – in 2006, a Carrick Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning, and in 2007, the Neville Bonner Award for Indigenous higher education.

Launch of CIER

CIER was launched at the Brisbane campus on Wednesday 28 October 2009, by Vice-Chancellor Professor Greg Craven. 

Professor Mark Rose, of Deakin University, was an invited guest speaker with the welcome to country given by Aunty Valda Coolwell and the blessing of the Centre by Bishop Ouderman of Brisbane. 

The CIER offices in Brisbane were officially blessed on 11 February 2010 by Fr Gerry Heffernan who has worked for many years with Indigenous communities.

Centre’s sites

CIER encompasses: 

• the Office of the Director, situated on the Brisbane campus 
• the four ACU Indigenous Higher Education Units (details on page 4) 
• research and other national staff of CIER located across the campuses.

CIER logo and its meaning

The CIER logo is designed to represent: 

• the four Indigenous Higher Education Units linked together 
• the four cornerstone areas of: 
  – education 
  – research 
  – leadership 
  – community engagement 
• the links of the Catholic Church with Indigenous communities, and the support of students and staff in their spiritual and educational journey 
• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Professor White has developed a national and international reputation in Indigenous education, and leadership and has published and presented widely on these significant topics.
The Centre for Indigenous Education and Research at Australian Catholic University is a living embodiment of its distinctive Mission.

**Aims**
The Centre aims for high standards and achievements in the four cornerstone areas of education, research, leadership and community engagement. This is to be reached by:
- collaborative research partnerships
- continuing Indigenous perspectives in academic courses
- evaluation and refinement of Indigenous support services
- strengthening the University’s links with the Catholic Church
- engagement with Indigenous communities
- contributing to leadership through representation at key forums and in educational initiatives.

**Commitment**
Members of CIER staff are committed to working collaboratively within the University to:
- maintain its excellent national standards in Indigenous higher education and research
- foster reconciliation
- support the aspirations of Indigenous people and their communities.

**Strategic plan**

**Thematic plan**
CIER is the central ACU entity for putting into action the University’s Indigenous Thematic Plan 2009–2011, which needs to be considered in detail with this report. The Thematic Plan is organised in terms of six goals, which drive the direction of CIER:
- Indigenous student population
- student experience
- learning and teaching
- research outcomes
- community engagement
- staffing.

**Mission statement**
The University’s Mission drives the basic aims of the Centre by emphasising its need to be guided by a fundamental concern for justice and equity, and for the dignity of all human beings.

**Reconciliation statement**
The Indigenous Reconciliation Statement, adopted by the University Senate in 1998, explicitly commits the University and its staff and students to the following goals:
- each campus will endeavour to involve the Indigenous people of the region in the life of the University
- each year the University through its campuses will recognise Indigenous culture with activities involving the University community
- the University through its policies and practices will encourage greater participation of Indigenous people in tertiary education
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives will be integral to the curriculum of the University
- the University will join with other universities and institutions of higher education to achieve reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

**CIER leadership**
CIER is providing strategic direction and leadership for the University in working towards the goals of the above plans and statements.
At Australian Catholic University (ACU) there are four Indigenous Higher Education Units (IHEUs) covering all campuses within CIER.

They are staffed by Indigenous people and provide cultural, personal, spiritual and educational support for ACU’s Indigenous students. This is done in an environment which promotes positive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity.

CIER’s Directorate staff moved into new designated office space on the Brisbane campus which was officially opened and blessed in February.

Queensland
CIER Office of the Director
Brisbane campus (McAuley at Banyo)
Director: Professor Nereda White

Queensland
Weemala (Distant View)
Brisbane campus (McAuley at Banyo)
Academic Coordinator: Mrs Krishna Heffernan

New South Wales
Yalbalinaga (Place of Learning)
Strathfield and North Sydney campuses (Mount St Mary and MacKillop)
Academic Coordinator and Associate Director of CIER: Ken Ralph

Australian Capital Territory
Dhara Daramoolen (Earth, Spirit)
Canberra campus (Signadou)
Academic Coordinator: Ms Kerry Reed-Gilbert

Victoria
Jim-baa-yer (To Learn)
Melbourne and Ballarat campuses (St Patrick’s and Aquinas)
Academic Coordinator: Ms Naomi Wolfe

Academic coordination
The Academic Coordinators of each Unit liaise closely with heads of schools, course coordinators and faculty staff about curriculum, research and Indigenous support. Each Faculty Board has a CIER representative and Ms Krishna Heffernan is a member of Academic Board.

A firm foundation
CIER is able to coordinate and provide support to promote and build on the success of Indigenous students through initiatives of the campus Higher Education Units, such as:

• Tutors
Students apply to the Indigenous Higher Education Units for tutors, who are funded by the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS).

• Individualised support scheme
This is designed to help Indigenous students enrolled in ACU undergraduate courses such as Nursing, Social Science, Arts and Business. The scheme involves a specially designed program of study and specialised support, where needed.

• Away-from-Base programs
These are mixed mode programs, well suited to Indigenous students from remote areas and those who are working or looking after families. Students of remote and regional areas, from the Torres Strait Islands to Alice Springs, from Moree to Shepparton, participate in these programs.

• Residential stays
Away-from-base students come to ACU campuses for between four and six residential weeks each year, with all travel and accommodation financed by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). Following the social contacts of the Residencies, student placements are organised for away-from-base students, in Education or Midwifery, comparable to those who study on-campus.

• Blackboard
A dedicated website has been designed for Indigenous students. (see page 6)
Statements and plans

• Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and CIER Director, Professor Nereda White, produced the 2010 Indigenous Education Statement for DEEWR.
• Senior staff of CIER worked with Professor Gabrielle McMullen and staff of the Office of Planning and Strategic Management on the Indigenisation Thematic Plan 2009–2011.
• Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Professor Nereda White, the Indigenous Employment Officer and staff of Human Resources worked on the ACU Indigenous Employment Strategy 2009 – 2011.

Attracting enrolments

CIER, with the four Indigenous Higher Education Units, continues to play a critical role in attracting Indigenous students to ACU, preparing them for higher education, and supporting them academically, culturally and pastorally during their studies.

Staff have attended a number of careers expos and community engagements throughout the year including Former Origin Greats (FOGs), National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC), Big Day Out etc. Staff have also presented at three workshops to Indigenous parents at Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville giving an overview of courses available at ACU. A targeted campaign through mail outs has been undertaken by the IHEU’s to promote the Away-from-Base (AFB) programs, along with an advertisement in the education segment of the Koori Mail.

CIER has also introduced measures to increase the number of applications for scholarships – for example:
• celebration of students’ scholarships
• holding formal award presentations within the residential programs
• assisting students with completion of applications
• targeting students to encourage them to apply
• contacting and interviewing Indigenous applicants for ACU scholarships and courses.

Supporting students

1 CIER works closely with faculty staff to give appropriate academic, cultural and peer support in the specifically-designed courses which are Indigenous specific:
• Associate Degree in Indigenous Education (Brisbane and Sydney)
• Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education (Brisbane and Sydney)
• Bachelor of Education (Primary) (Indigenous Studies) (Brisbane and Sydney)
• Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) (Brisbane and Sydney)
• Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Arts (Indigenous Studies) (Sydney)
• Associate Degree in Business Administration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) (Brisbane)
• Bachelor of Midwifery (Brisbane).

2 The specific programs offered to Indigenous students incorporate units of Indigenous culture, spirituality and wider Indigenous perspectives.

3 CIER provides a supportive and culturally sensitive environment on campus, with involvement of academic and professional staff to ensure that Indigenous students are familiarised with the culture of the University.

4 CIER staff work closely with other ACU staff from Academic Skills Unit, library, and the Faculties of Education, Business and Nursing and Midwifery operating away-from-base programs, to ensure that appropriate orientation to university life, study skills and library sessions are incorporated in residential programs.

5 CIER administers the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS). There are continuing difficulties in finding ITAS tutors for students in remote areas.

6 The use of Blackboard has become very effective in linking students with lecturers, each other and CIER staff, particularly the Residential Officers.

7 Financial support, from external partners as well as government agencies, assists students to attend their official ACU graduation ceremonies. Through the continued fundraising efforts of Mt St Michael’s College in Brisbane, Queensland graduates are being assisted with costs of graduation expenses.
8 At the Melbourne Campus, the following initiatives continued throughout 2010:

- Koorie Study Nights for existing students and senior high school students
- Elders in residence
- Koorie Study Skills Days.

**Staffing aims**

During the year CIER has supported the University's strategy to increase Indigenous staff numbers through:

- assisting with the recruitment of the Indigenous Staff Scholarship Scheme resulting in the placement of five Indigenous staff into various ACU Faculties
- development of indigenous email networks for employment opportunities, including other universities and agencies
- engagement with Indigenous communities to promote ACU as an employer of choice for Indigenous people
- Employment of research assistants and project staff on CIER projects.

**Events**

During 2010 the Centre and CIER staff have supported and attended the following events:

- Harmony Day, Close the Gap campaign, Reconciliation Week, National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week, Indigenous Peoples’ Week, National Sorry Day, the anniversary of the Apology and White Ribbon Day - which all involved local Indigenous community members interacting with the ACU community at the anniversary of the Apology and White Ribbon Day
- Indigenous Theology Symposium: Dreaming a New Earth: Indigenous Spiritualities and the Vision of Raimon Panikkar in Brisbane, co-hosted by CIER and the School of Theology, Brisbane. This was attended by international speakers and included Indigenous presenters Miriam Rose Ungunnerr-Baumann, Louise Campbell and Aunty Joan Hendriks
- Social Justice Forums for high school students
- 6th International Conference of Indigenous Education, Pacific Rim held in Cairns and co-hosted by CIER and CDU
- Launch of the publication *Indigenous Issues in Australian Universities: Research and Teaching*, Support by Professor Mark Rose from Deakin university
- The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Catholic Council (NATSICC) Youth Leadership Gathering, 13-15 May which was facilitated by Mrs Thelma Parker, Chair of NATSICC and CIER staff member
- Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated State Conference in Melbourne
- National Indigenous Higher Education Network meeting at the University of Technology Sydney
- Partnership activities with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Queensland departments of Justice and the Attorney-General
- Journey of Healing Dinner at the University of Queensland, attended by staff of Weemala, ACU Education and Business and Presentation Sisters.

**Communications**

- Regular news bulletins with updated news from CIER and the four Indigenous Higher Education Units continue to be electronically distributed
- Ongoing updates of the CIER section of the ACU website to become a source of important information
- Development of the Brisbane campus publication *Weemala the Spirit Continues* has begun. This second publication in the series highlights the lives and achievements of many Brisbane campus Indigenous graduates
- An Appropriateness of Language document has been drafted to help staff and students with culturally appropriate terminology for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, research and interaction.
Cultural competency

CIER is the central resource within ACU for providing students and staff with an understanding of, and respect for, Indigenous traditional and contemporary cultures, as outlined in the Indigenisation Thematic Plan.

Approaches to increase cultural understanding and competency across the University include:

• inclusion of a compulsory unit in undergraduate teacher education courses on Indigenous cultural issues and perspectives, and elective units on Indigenous issues available in most undergraduate courses
• inclusion of unit content on Indigenous health within the Bachelor of Midwifery
• assurance that all courses being reviewed feature Indigenous perspectives and culture incorporated into learning experiences for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students according to the ACU Inclusive Curriculum Policy
• employment of Indigenous staff in teaching, course development, course review and curriculum advice
• expansion of ACU library collection of Indigenous publications
• provision of cultural awareness training for ACU staff by CIER staff and the Indigenous Employment Coordinator
• strengthening of working relationships with Indigenous Elders and respected community persons through consistent involvement at ACU activities and functions
• provision of assistance to all ACU students to better understand Indigenous perspectives when completing assignments by staff from all Indigenous Higher Education Units
• delivery of guest lectures and advice to ACU staff by CIER staff regarding Indigenous perspectives
• incorporating the practices of flying Indigenous flags on campuses, Acknowledgement of Country and Indigenous welcome at official ACU functions including Graduation ceremonies and Orientation programs
• provision of Indigenous awareness programs available to all ACU staff as part of the overall strategy of sensitising staff to cultural issues.

In general terms, CIER provides a spearhead for ensuring that Indigenous perspectives are incorporated wherever appropriate.

Indigenous staffing

CIER continues to support ACU staffing targets including:

• increasing the numbers of Indigenous academic and professional staff
• promoting the participation of Indigenous staff in decision-making roles.

In CIER

During 2010, recruitment for the Centre and its four Indigenous Higher Education Units ensured the majority of positions continue to be staffed by Indigenous professionals.

Key roles in CIER

Indigenous staff occupy key roles such as Academic Coordinators, Student Support Officers and Residential Officers (who provide support for away-from-base programs).

In University in general

ACU has Indigenous staff in both academic and professional positions. See Table 1.

Indigenous Employment Strategy (IES)

In 2010 the Indigenous Employment Officer, Ms Shani Gallegan, worked collaboratively with CIER and Human Resources to appoint additional Indigenous staff.
Indigenous Students

Table 2 below presents details of Indigenous and all student enrolments for the period 2008 to 2010.

The number of Indigenous students has remained almost constant while the University overall has grown by over 18 percent during this period.

Table 3 provides greater detail by presenting a picture of ACU Indigenous student enrolments by campus, from 2005 to 2010.

Mount St Mary (Strathfield) and McAuley at Banyo (Brisbane) have comparatively large numbers of Indigenous students because these campuses offer the away-from-base programs.

Result of support

CIER has strengthened the support for ACU Indigenous programs with the following outstanding results:

• The University was one of nine Australia-wide to receive five stars for Indigenous participation in the 2009 Good Universities Guide.

• There were 337 Indigenous students, with 51 completions, during the year.

Table 1 – ACU Indigenous Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIER Staffing 2010</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D – Associate Professor</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C – Senior Lecturer</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B – Lecturer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEW 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEW 6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEW 5 – Full-time</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEW 5 – Part-time</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEW 4 – Part-time</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEW 3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 – ACU Indigenous Student Headcount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commencing</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACU Indigenous Grand Total</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACU All Student Headcount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commencing</td>
<td>7,725</td>
<td>8,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing</td>
<td>9,309</td>
<td>10,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACU All Student Grand Total</td>
<td>17,034</td>
<td>18,402</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 – Indigenous Student Headcount by Campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Signadou</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>MacKillop</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mount St Mary</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>McAuley at Banyo</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>Aquinas</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St Patrick’s</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>276</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projects completed
Indigenous staff continue to participate in research and community projects that have significant impact on Indigenous education and leadership. The following research projects were completed in 2010:

• Indigenous Issues in Australian Universities, published by Charles Darwin Press was officially launched in March 2010. This book is co-edited by Professor Nereda White, Dr Maggie Nolan (Faculty of Arts and Sciences) and Dr Jack Frawley (Centre for Creative and Authentic Leadership).

• Dreaming a New Earth: Indigenous Spiritualities and Vision of Raimon Panikkar an Indigenous theology symposium was held on 20-23 June 2010. ACU’s School of Theology and CIER brought together individuals and groups from a variety of religious and cultural standpoints for intercultural and interreligious dialogue with a particular focus on Indigenous traditions within Australia and across the Asia-Pacific region.

• Tiddas Writin’ Up, the final workshop in a series of five, focussing on encouraging Indigenous academic women in the publication of their work, was held from 16 – 18 August 2010. Co-facilitated by Professor Nereda White and Dr Bronwyn Fredericks (QUT), the workshop provided authors to receive critical feedback on drafts of their work. It is anticipated that the works will be published in a special issue of Australian Indigenous Issues during 2011.

• Une Notte Australiana (an evening dedicated to Australia at the Vatican) held in Rome on 16 October 2010 – Professor Nereda White led a contingent of ACU Indigenous staff, students and community members in attending this important event which also commemorated the canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop. CIER staff member Elwyn Henaway also attended and performed with a group of ACU Indigenous dancers including students from St Josephs College Nudgee.

Publications
Indigenous staff continue to contribute to publications and conference presentations which add to the body of knowledge about Indigenous higher education and other community issues, particularly institutional leadership.

Publications released in 2010 include:


Publications under Development
A special issue of The Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues (JAII) is expected to be published during 2011. This joint publication will be edited by Professor Nereda White, Dr Bronwyn Fredericks, Associate Professor Tracey Bunda and Associate Professor Jenny Baker and will include contributions from the Indigenous women academics who took part in the Tiddas Leadership workshops (2007-2010) funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC).

Other publications currently under development include a chapter on Indigenous spirituality in an international nursing text Religion, Religious Ethics and Nursing co-authored by Professor Nereda White, Aunty Joan Hendriks and a group of other international Indigenous writers.
Conference presentations

In 2010 Indigenous staff presented and attended a number of significant conferences, including:

- University of Brighton International Inspirational Speaker Series - Professor Nereda White attended as an invited speaker on 6 July 2010 and spoke to university and community groups on Indigenous community engagement
- 2nd Paris International Conference on Education, Economy and Society held in Paris from 21-24 July, 2010 – Professor Nereda White attended and presented a paper on Indigenous Academic women’s leadership
- ACU Leadership Conference held in Sydney from 1-4 August 2010 - Professor Nereda White attended as a co-presenter with Thelma Parker for Indigenous Leadership in Catholic Education: the Challenges, the Rewards and the Sheer Hard Work! and Dr Jack Frawley attended as a co-presenter with Associate Professor Michael Bezzina for Leading Teaching; the Professional Development Opportunities and Experiences of Early to Mid-Career Indigenous Teachers
- Cultural Studies Association of Australasia Annual Conference held in Byron Bay from 7-9 December, 2010 – Naomi Wolfe attended as a presenter on the topic of collaboration, equity and respect for Indigenous culture within tertiary education with a session titled “Takin’ care of Business”
- 6th International Conference for Indigenous People – Pacific Rim held in Cairns from 18-21 December. Co-hosted by CIER and Charles Darwin University - Professor Nereda White presented on the topic of Indigenous Women’s Leadership in Australian Universities

Visiting Fellowship

During August 2010, CIER had the pleasure of hosting Dr Jackie Ottman from the University of Calgary who undertook collaborative work with both CIER and the Centre for Creative and Authentic Leadership (CCAL). Dr Ottman contributed to the outstanding outcomes from the TIDDAS Workshop and ACU Leadership Conference.

Research protocols

The ACU Indigenous Research Committee, formerly known as the Indigenous Research Advisory Group (IRAG), was established in 2003, as an action under the University’s Indigenous Education Strategy 2003–2005.

It provides advice to the University Research and Ethics Committees and individual staff and students to ensure ethical research in Indigenous studies. Jim-baa-yer Co-ordinator, Naomi Wolfe conducted an Indigenous Research Perspectives Workshop for ACU Melbourne staff to increase understanding of current guidelines and relevant protocol.
current contacts

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Une Notte Australiana (an evening dedicated to Australia at the Vatican) commemorated the canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop.