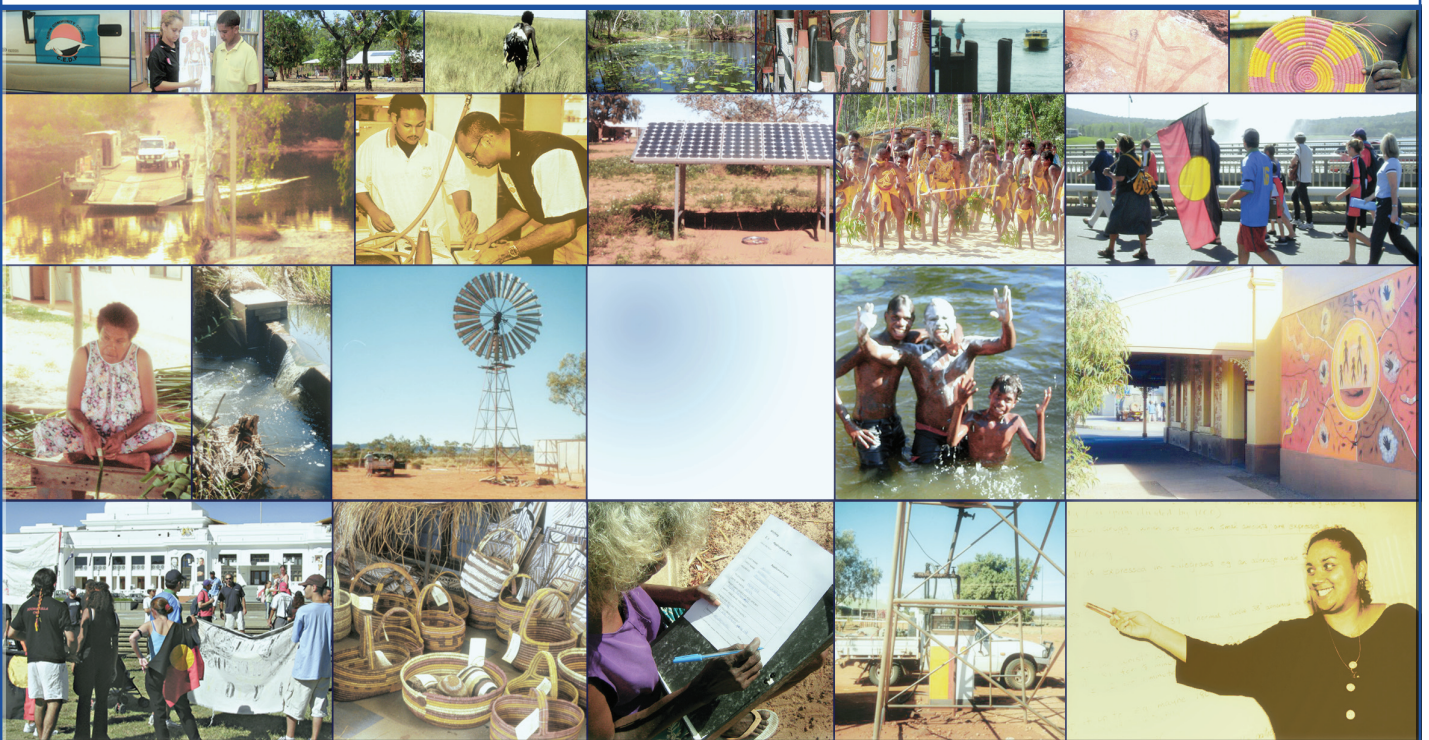


CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC  
POLICY RESEARCH



# CAEPR RESEARCH PLAN 2010-2012



ANU COLLEGE OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

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The CAEPR Research Plan 2010–2012 is built around four themes:

- Economic, cultural and social circumstances
- Economic development aspirations and alternative futures
- Governance, policy and the state
- Education, lifespan learning and youth

This Research Plan was developed by CAEPR staff at an annual planning retreat in November 2009. This is a rolling triennial plan that will be updated in November 2010. As the CAEPR Annual Report regularly documents, planned research activity will be supplemented with additional unanticipated projects and contracted research. At the time of writing, the plan involved the following projects grouped according to the research themes described above.

## THEME 1. ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

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*Theme leaders: Professor John Taylor and Dr Boyd Hunter*

This research theme contributes directly to the policy discourse on 'closing the gaps' between Indigenous and other Australians across a range of social indicators. Since its inception in 1990, a core focus of CAEPR's research has been the tracking of change in Indigenous social and economic circumstances at national, regional and local levels. Initially, much of this work was census-based and concerned with demography and economic status but this has gradually broadened to include the analysis of survey and administrative data as well as measurement around specific social issues such as alcohol, criminal justice, poverty, community development and longitudinal pathways for children and families. The current research plan reflects this expansion as well as a growing list of social science research collaborators and sponsors including Commonwealth and State governments, the private sector, Indigenous organisations and the Australia Research Council (ARC). Notable in the current plan is a major population project sponsored by the Ministerial Council on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. This is examining regional change in Indigenous social indicators, establishing measures of residential segregation and migration in metropolitan areas, and developing a typology of short term mobility and its consequences for service delivery.

### ANALYSIS OF 2008 NATSISS LIFE COURSE

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*Nicholas Biddle, John Taylor, Mandy Yap*

The 2008 NATSISS provides a unique opportunity to explore differences in social and economic outcomes over the life course. While the survey is cross-sectional in nature it contains substantial information on Indigenous children that has never been collected at a national level. A conference on the 2008 NATSISS will be convened in April 2011.

## **INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT INDICES**

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*Nicholas Biddle, Mandy Yap*

Building on an index of Indigenous socioeconomic outcomes developed by CAEPR based on employment, education, income and housing, this project will develop a more place-based Community Development Index by making select use of the wide range of administrative data on housing, education, safety, health and welfare that is to be generated by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement.

## **IDENTIFYING SERVICE POPULATIONS**

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*Sarah Prout, Mandy Yap, Nicholas Biddle, John Taylor*

This project will explore the use of administrative data sets to identify temporary population movement within service delivery catchment areas as a means of quantifying service populations.

## **GENDER ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT**

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*Nicholas Biddle, Mandy Yap*

This research investigates the relevance of gender-related indices of development to Indigenous Australians.

## **URBAN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES**

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*Nicholas Biddle*

This project focuses on the socioeconomic status of urban Indigenous populations and establishes measures of their spatial and economic segregation in Australian towns and cities. Case studies to be undertaken in Port Augusta, South Australia, and Mt Druitt in western Sydney.

## **REGIONAL POPULATION PROFILING**

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*John Taylor, Frances Morphy*

A series of regional population profiles focuses on the needs of major resource projects and service delivery networks for relevant demographic information. Research on the enumeration of Indigenous remote population which has been undertaken in collaboration with the ABS is being written up.

## **AUDIT STUDIES ON DISCRIMINATION**

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*Nicholas Biddle, Boyd Hunter*

Collaborative long term study with Professor Andrew Leigh (ANU) will develop audit-based studies on discrimination in education, housing, retail and labour markets.

## **INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AND ALCOHOL CONTROL**

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*Maggie Brady (QEII Fellow), Boyd Hunter*

This ARC Discovery Project, subtitled 'The Impact of Hotel Ownership on Harm Reduction and Social and Economic Development', will focus on analysing field work conducted in Alice Springs, Wadeye, and east Kimberley.

## **ANALYSIS OF THE DYNAMICS OF ABORIGINAL INTERACTIONS WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

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*Boyd Hunter, Jerry Schwab, Kate Sullivan*

This ARC Linkage Project, which aims to further analyse data from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and New South Wales local court data, concludes in 2010. Kate Sullivan is writing up a doctoral thesis on Aboriginal interactions with the justice system in New South Wales—a focus on re-offence and desistance.

## **SOCIOECONOMIC CORRELATES OF INDIGENOUS WELLBEING**

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*Boyd Hunter*

This project will analyse 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and related data sets to examine the nature of Indigenous wellbeing.

## **DROUGHT AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES**

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*Boyd Hunter, Nicholas Biddle*

This continuing research explores a study of the incidence of drought and economic outcomes for families in regional Australia in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Particular attention will be paid to the substantial Indigenous component of the survey.

## **LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN**

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*Boyd Hunter*

Analysis of this recently released survey data will be undertaken in collaboration with FaHCSIA.

## **ASSESSING DEVELOPMENT: DESIGNING BETTER INDICES OF POVERTY AND GENDER EQUITY**

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*Janet Hunt*

This ARC Linkage Project aims to construct new indices of poverty and gender equity that are applicable both at national/supranational levels and to smaller groups affected by a policy or program.

## THEME 2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASPIRATIONS AND ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

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*Theme leaders: Professor Jon Altman and Dr Kirrily Jordan*

This theme explores innovative ways to improve livelihood opportunities for Indigenous people through economic engagement with the market and the customary sectors appropriately enabled by the state. Much of the focus is on regional and remote Australia and on Indigenous communities located on the significant Indigenous estate. It also explores the relevance of mainstream policies and programs for Indigenous Australians whether in remote or non-remote settings. The theme addresses two crucial issues that have emerged in policy debates in the past decade. The first is the provision of economic development opportunity for Indigenous people in geographically remote contexts, recognising the demographic reality that this population is growing and is relatively immobile in terms of labour migration. The second is the provision of economic development opportunity that acknowledges the diversity of Indigenous aspirations and their fundamental difference from those of mainstream Australians in many situations. Much of the research in this theme will focus on opportunities in new and emerging sectors, like the provision of environmental services, as well as recognising established competitive advantage in sectors such as the visual arts and cultural tourism. The theme will analyse institutional barriers to development and will provide an evidence base and cogent argument for new policies to effectively facilitate regional and community economic development for Indigenous well-being and for national benefit.

### PEOPLE ON COUNTRY, HEALTHY LANDSCAPES AND INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC FUTURES PROJECT

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*Jon Altman, Sean Kerins, Emilie Ens, John Hughes, Katherine May*

This applied research project supported by the Sidney Myer Fund focuses on linking Indigenous poverty alleviation and natural resource management and new resource-based development opportunities in six Indigenous communities in the Top End of the Northern Territory and one traditional owner group in the West Kimberley of Western Australia. This work focuses on Indigenous Protected Areas and Working on Country projects.

### THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS OF WORKING ON COUNTRY FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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*Jon Altman, Janet Hunt*

This project will explore the range of benefits which derive from the diverse experiences Aboriginal people have of Working on Country in New South Wales. Following an extensive review of the literature and current New South Wales initiatives in 2009, initial fieldwork is focusing on the benefits emerging from an Indigenous Protected Area on the New England Tablelands and from selected Green Teams in the Northern Rivers area. The study is funded by the New South Wales Department of Climate Change and Water.

### EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE ECONOMY

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*Jon Altman, Nanni Concu, Jennifer Koenig*

This project, undertaken in collaboration with CSIRO-led Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge Commonwealth Environment Research Facility (TRaCK) and the North Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), assesses strategies for developing and financing an effective conservation and sustainable use economy in the Maningrida regional river catchments, central Arnhem Land.

## **HYBRID ECONOMIC FUTURES FOR REMOTE INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA**

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*Jon Altman (ARC Australian Professorial Fellow), Geoffrey Buchanan*

This ARC Discovery Project 'Hybrid economic futures for remote Indigenous Australia: Linking poverty reduction and natural resource management' explores theoretical aspects of this field.

## **WELFARE TO WORK OR WORK TO WELFARE?**

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*Jon Altman, Kirrily Jordan, Boyd Hunter, Will Sanders*

This research continues to examine recent changes to Indigenous employment policy. Particular focus will be placed on assessing the changes to the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) with statistical data and case study research. Work will continue on tracking the performance of the Australian Employment Covenant.

## **AFTER THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY**

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*Jon Altman*

This research tracks the rebuilding of Indigenous Australia and the implications of the National Emergency in the Northern Territory.

## **INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIES**

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*Jon Altman, Kirrily Jordan, Sean Kerins, Paul Cleary*

This research focuses on the broad issue of land and resource rights in Indigenous socioeconomic development and explores Indigenous property rights in existing and emerging industries. Doctoral research will commence to investigate mining royalty distributions.

## **WATER IN INDIGENOUS NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**

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*Jon Altman, Kirrily Jordan*

Research with NAILSMA and CSIRO as part of the Indigenous Water Policy Group initiative funded by the National Water Commission and on the issue of non-market valuations of water as part of TRaCK with Dr Sue Jackson, Sustainable Ecosystems, CSIRO.



## THEME 3. GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND THE STATE

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*Theme leaders: Dr Will Sanders and Dr Janet Hunt*

Public policy towards Indigenous Australians is characterised by a vast array of activity at all three levels of government, plus the activities of Indigenous organisations and other NGOs which are state-authorized or funded. This research theme aims to discern patterns within this vast array of activity, such as principles which compete in guiding policy or patterns of intergovernmental conflict and cooperation. A significant portion of the work examines public policy from the local level, through working either with local governments or with Indigenous organisations and other NGOs involved in community development as well as service delivery. Relations between this local level of state-authorized activity and super-ordinate levels of government, such as accountability and responsiveness to emergent practice, are another important focus.

### COMPETING PRINCIPLES AND THE DYNAMICS OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

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*Will Sanders*

This research examines the dominant principle of equality in Indigenous affairs and how it relates to other competing values such as autonomy and freedom, tolerance and diversity, and protection and guardianship. The research seeks to understand the dynamic way in which these different principles guide, or are otherwise related to policy and state-authorized action over time. Are competing principles balanced in policy? Or is there a switching between principles over space and time, or between policy and practice? This research contributes to CAEPR's teaching role through providing a structuring framework for the masters-level course Australian Indigenous Policy.

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

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*Will Sanders*

Since the late 1960s, Australian Indigenous affairs has been characterised by increasing responsibility sharing across the three levels of government, as well as with Indigenous people and organisations. This research examines the way in which intergovernmental relations in Indigenous affairs have developed, and are developing, as a result of this federal responsibility sharing.

### AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC POLICY AND THE ANANGU PITJANTJATJARA YANKUNYTJATJARA LANDS

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*Deirdre Tedmanson*

This doctoral research explores recent changes in public policy towards the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands and looks back to the original ideas informing the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act of 1981 passed by the South Australian parliament. Conceptually the research is driven by the idea that the framing of an issue is an important aspect of policy processes. So it asks how and why the framing of the APY lands in Australian public policy processes might have changed over the last 30 years.

### INDIGENOUS INTERESTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

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*Will Sanders*

This research asks how recent reforms in the Northern Territory local government system in remote areas have affected the Indigenous population who are the majority in these areas. Conceptually it focuses on two central aspects of the upscaling and broad-scale land incorporation in local government: the mixing of Indigenous and settler interests and the idea of economies of scale.

## HOUSING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN DIVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES

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*Jon Altman, Will Sanders, Jendrek Hagedorn*

How do diverse socioeconomic circumstances among Indigenous people in different geographic areas affect Indigenous housing policy and practice? One part of this project is doctoral research on the contribution of housing to economic development in remote areas, being undertaken in the Maningrida region with the assistance of the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation as an ARC Linkage Project partner. Another part of this project is a broad conceptual review of Indigenous housing policy over the 40 years since the Australian Commonwealth government became involved in this arena, building on previous work on Indigenous housing policy and tenures in remote and settled areas.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS: THE INVOLVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL NGOS

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*Janet Hunt*

Approximately 10 international development NGOs (non-government organisations) based in Australia are working with Indigenous Australians and their organisations. Most, if not all, subscribe to a community development approach. This research, conducted in partnership with Professor Larissa Behrendt of the University of Technology Sydney, inquires into the nature of International NGO community development practice among Indigenous Australians. It aims to document successful aspects of this practice, while also being sanguine about the challenges and difficulties.

## PACIFIC PRACTICE AND ITS APPLICATION AMONG INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS: IMPLEMENTING A PSYCHO-SOCIAL, BASIC HUMAN NEED APPROACH TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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*Richard Barcham*

This doctoral research aims to reflect both conceptually and empirically on the development and application of community development techniques in Solomon Islands (Solomon Islands Development Trust), Papua New Guinea (Bismark Ramu Group), and Fiji (Social Empowerment and Education Program) from 1982 to the present. The study will focus on urban populations in outer regional New South Wales, and the Far South Coast, predominantly Yuin nation.

## THE PRACTICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN INDIGENOUS ORGANISATIONS

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*Will Sanders*

This proposed ARC Linkage Project with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations is being led from the ANU's College of Business and Economics. Conceptually the research will examine the way in which different accountabilities are balanced in Indigenous organisations in practice—internal community accountabilities to members and constituents versus external accountabilities to funders and regulators. It will ask when these diverse accountabilities complement and reinforce each other and when they are in tension.



## THEME 4. EDUCATION, LIFESPAN LEARNING AND YOUTH

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*Theme leaders: Dr Jerry Schwab and Dr Inge Kral*

This research theme focuses on the effective delivery of education, the development of evidence-based education policy and the social context of literacy and life-long learning among Indigenous Australians. It includes research on all levels and sectors of formal education and training, but also extends to consideration of non-formal contexts and learning across the lifespan. Research under this theme involves both qualitative and quantitative methodologies and is anchored by an understanding that learning is fundamentally social and situated and can be found and enhanced both inside and outside the classroom. In addition, CAEPR research in this area is framed by an awareness that education and training are most effective when linked to the local social, cultural and economic contexts of everyday life. Several of the current projects in this theme involve collaborations: with Indigenous organisations and communities, government departments, philanthropic and non-government organizations. Key research projects focus on building effective partnerships between philanthropic and indigenous groups, youth leadership, post-school skills acquisition and youth pathways to employment through land management, media and other community-based arenas of learning.

### PHILANTHROPY AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE: ENHANCING INDIGENOUS EDUCATION OUTCOMES

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*Jerry Schwab, Janet Hunt*

This ARC Linkage Project (in partnership with the Melbourne Community Foundation) aims to critically assess the degree to which philanthropic interventions improve Indigenous education outcomes—from both Indigenous and philanthropic perspectives—with the goal of identifying or developing models, strategies and principles of effective partnership and engagement.

### LIFESPAN LEARNING & LITERACY

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*Inge Kral, Jerry Schwab*

This ARC Linkage Project (in partnership with the Fred Hollows Foundation) focuses on young adults (16–25 years) in the post-school years and explores language and learning and how multimodal literacies can be acquired, transmitted and maintained in community-based projects and across the lifespan. The project concludes in 2010.

### WRITING WORDS—RIGHT WAY!

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*Inge Kral*

A book manuscript based on the doctoral thesis titled 'Writing Words—Right Way! Literacy and Social Practice in the Ngaanyatjarra World' which won the Australian Anthropological Society PhD Thesis prize for 2007 for best thesis by research will be submitted to publishers early in 2010.

### MODELS OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT THROUGH LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

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*Jerry Schwab, Bill Fogarty*

Part of an ARC Linkage Project (in partnership with Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, the Northern Land Council and the Northern Territory Department of Education and Training) titled 'Custom-based land and resource management and the educational and

social re-engagement of Indigenous youth', this research involves an international exploration of models for re-engaging Indigenous youth through land and resource management programs.

## LAND RESOURCES AND YOUTH

*Jerry Schwab, Bill Fogarty*

This policy-focused research draws together insights and ideas from key stakeholders related to the effective engagement of young Indigenous people through land and resource management programs and activities in a range of Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

## SCIENCE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

*Bill Fogarty, Adrian Fordham*

This study addresses critical issues related to science education and training in preparing young people and adults for sustainable employment in wildlife enterprises in remote Indigenous communities. In so doing, the study also explores the relative contributions of Indigenous ecological knowledge and western science knowledge to these enterprises.

## THE VIABILITY OF WILDLIFE ENTERPRISES IN REMOTE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES OF AUSTRALIA

*Adrian Fordham, Bill Fogarty*

This project explores the factors influencing the viability of sustainable wildlife enterprises developed by Indigenous people living in remote locations in Australia. The research focuses on: the extent of collaboration between the local Indigenous community and western scientists; knowledge and skill requirements for a successful wildlife enterprise; and institutional constraints on the effectiveness of wildlife enterprises in remote localities.

## FROM PEDAGOGY TO PRODUCTION: LAND, EDUCATION AND REMOTE INDIGENOUS YOUTH

*Bill Fogarty*

This is an ethnographic study for a PhD thesis and is part of an ARC Linkage Project titled 'Custom-based land and resource management and the educational and social re-engagement of Indigenous youth'; the thesis will be completed in early 2010.

## YOUTH, LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

*Jerry Schwab*

This stream of research explores the challenges faced by Indigenous communities as they look to renew themselves and draw young people into positions of leadership. Specifically, the research aims to provide policy and program advice for engaging and supporting young Indigenous people as they prepare to become the future leaders of their communities.