

Pathways to Politics Program for Women

Welcome Pack 2023



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Welcome

Welcome to the Charles Darwin University Pathways to Politics Program for Women 2023. Your cohort is made up of a group of politically, professionally, and culturally diverse women, and we are deeply impressed by the work that each of you are already doing in your respective communities.

By the end of the program, you will be a member of an engaged and inspiring group of more than 400 alums nationally, who are dedicated to making a tangible difference to the political landscape. You will gain invaluable confidence and support from the networks you create, and the ideas and experiences you are exposed to, from a diverse group of speakers from across the political spectrum. We hope that beyond the program, you will use these skills to chart your own pathway to elected office.

Pathways to Politics is possible through the vision and extraordinary support of Carol Schwartz AO and Sarah Buckley, CEO Trawalla Foundation, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Carol and Sarah for their ongoing commitment to the program.

The Pathways to Politics team look forward to meeting you, and supporting your political journey.

The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO FAICD
Patron, Pathways to Politics Program for Women (NT)

Our Patron



Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO FAICD is an Australian businesswoman and community worker, who retired as the 22nd Administrator of the Northern Territory in January 2023. Her Honour, was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in His Majesty The King's New Year's Honours List 2022, in recognition of her eminent service as Administrator of the Northern Territory

Prior to her appointment as Administrator of the Northern Territory, Her Honour was Chief Executive Officer of Somerville Community Services. She is a member of a range of boards and committees locally and nationally. Her Honour was Chair of National Disability Services Northern Territory, serving as National President of National Disability Services from 2012-2015, and Chair of the Northern Territory Government Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability Reform.

Her Honour is the continuing Patron of the Pathways to Politics Program for Women (NT) after accepting the role in the inaugural year 2022.

Chief Minister's message



Welcome to the Pathways to Politics Program for 2023. My sincere apologies I am unable to attend this year.

I participated last year and know you're all going to walk away at the end of the week feeling more empowered, with the knowledge and confidence to take the next step in your political career.

It is really important women have a seat at the table, women of all ages and backgrounds.

We pick up more of the workload on the home front, which is why we need to be at the forefront of good public policy.

Whether it's aged care or child care, we need flexible working conditions. It makes sense socially and economically to empower women to be part of the workforce at all stages.

My advice to anyone contemplating a career in politics is to just say yes.

You will find every reason under the sun to say no. But work it out, break things down, step by step.

It will be ok – just say yes.

The Honourable Natasha Fyles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Director's foreword



Charles Darwin University through the Northern Institute (NI) is pleased to offer the Northern Territory Pathways to Politics Program for Women for 2023.

The Pathways to Politics Program for Women is a proudly non-partisan initiative that aims to change the face of electoral politics by equipping women with the skills, knowledge, confidence and networks they need to run for elected office and thrive as political leaders.

Open to women and non-binary participants, and with an emphasis on inclusion and diversity, the Northern Territory program is generously supported by the Trawalla Foundation and is part of a vibrant national network of universities that share a mission to transform electoral politics for the better. This year, we are grateful also to the DGP Foundation and the Benjamin Duncan Foundation for their generous philanthropic support of First Nations participants.

The 2023 program promises to be an exciting and rewarding experience, and all of us at the NI extend a warm welcome to this year's participants.

Professor Kim Humphery
Director, Northern Institute
Charles Darwin University

Northern Institute



Since its formation at CDU in 2010, Northern Institute has become a regional leader in high quality social and public policy research. We aim to understand regional development and provide strong evidence for policy development and capacity building whilst responding to the needs of governments and communities.

Learn more at www.cdu.edu.au/northern-institute

NT Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee provides strategic oversight and ensures the high quality of the Northern Territory Program. We are incredibly appreciative of the time, expertise and generous in-kind support provided by our Committee Members.

PROFESSOR KIM HUMPHERY

Advisory Committee Chair, Director of Northern Institute (CDU)

DR KATE MACFARLANE

Advisory Committee Co-Chair and Program Coordinator.



**PROFESSOR
RUTH WALLACE**

Pro Vice Chancellor
Faculty of arts & Society
(CDU)



**THE HONOURABLE
SALLY THOMAS AC**
Former NT Administrator
& CDU Chancellor



**THE HONOURABLE
LAUREN JANE MOSS MLA**
Member for Casuarina



MS KEZIA PURICK MLA
Member for Goyder



MRS JO HERSEY
Member for Katherine



MRS MAREE BREDHAUER
Former Mayor of Litchfield



MRS SARAH BUCKLEY
National Co-Convenor of
Pathways to Politics Program
for Women

Key staff



DR KATE MACFARLANE

Program Coordinator

Dr Kate Macfarlane is the Senior Lecturer in International Relations at the Faculty of Society and Arts, Charles Darwin University. Kate is the original Program Coordinator of the Pathways to Politics Program for Women (NT) which began in 2022. She oversees the program on behalf of the Northern Institute, and plans and facilitates program sessions. She is also co-chair of the program's NT Selection Committee.

Kate is an International Relations/Political Science scholar, who focuses on children and armed conflict, child soldiering, peacebuilding, and gender. Recently, her research focused on the reintegration of child soldiers in post conflict settings in South Asia. She is also working with CDU colleagues on a research collaboration with Melaleuca Centre to assess the effectiveness of the Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP).

Kate received her PhD degree, two Bachelor degrees (First Class Honours) in International Relations and Political Science from Australian National University (ANU). Her recent publication is in International Affairs, Oxford University Press.

Kate is the key contact for participants queries regarding course content, schedules, speakers and facilitators.

CONTACT DETAILS

E: Kate.macfarlane@cdu.edu.au

P: 08 8946 7592



KATRINA BRITNELL

Program Administrator

Katrina is the Partnerships Coordinator for Northern Institute. She provides executive assistance, administrative and project support to the Pathways to Politics Program for Women Coordinator and Northern Institute Director.

Katrina is the key contact for participants queries related to administration and logistics of the program, outside of teaching.

CONTACT DETAILS

E: Katrina.britnell@cdu.edu.au

P: 08 8946 7468

Facilitators



SALLI COHEN

The Policy Room, Founder | www.thepolicyroom.com

Salli's professional experience expands over 30 years working in the private and public sectors. She has a Master of Criminology and Criminal Justice (Griffith University) and an Executive Master in Public Administration (ANZSOG). Salli is committed to building service capacity and capability to enhance the creation of value. She has valuable networks across state, territory, federal and international governments, the Aboriginal Community Controlled, for-purpose, not-for-profit and private sectors. Her experience encompasses strategic development and engagement, driving organisational and cultural change, capacity building, front-line service delivery, public, strategic, organisational and operational policy, and complex problem solving and negotiation. Salli is driven by identifying solutions to harness positive change, fostering safe, engaging and productive work environments and creating opportunities.



RUTH MCGOWAN OAM

Author, Consultant & Advisor | www.ruthmcgowan.com

Ruth McGowan OAM has worked as a consultant and adviser to councils, peak bodies in local government and community leaders since 2012. She is a former Mayor of Baw Baw Shire Council and an alum of the University of Melbourne's Pathways to Politics Program for Women.

Ruth's book 'Get Elected' is a step-by-step campaign guide to winning public office: local, state, and federal. Written primarily for women, Ruth wants to see gender parity in Australian councils, state and territory parliaments and federal politics. Get Elected explains how women candidates and their supporters can plan and deliver a winning campaign. In 2022, Ruth has made her book freely available to support even more women to stand for office at a local, state or federal level.



NYREE SLATTER

Chief Wordsmith and Speechwriter | www.nyreeslatter.com.au

Born and raised in Brisbane, Australia, Nyree moved to the remote Northern Territory to start a new adventure in the outback. With a passion for social justice, Nyree focussed on politics, spending 8 years working in community engagement, campaigning and advising.

After becoming jaded with the 'boys club' of politics, Nyree moved into the public service. She took on a range of project and operational policy roles in Child Protection, Justice and Health working on critical legislative reform projects. In 2017 –after stifling the desire for years – Nyree decided to pursue her talent for writing full-time.

Nyree started Well Versed NT while living in Darwin, supporting businesses, government and the not-for-profit sector with writing and policy projects. After a few years, she rebranded to Nyree Slatter Copywriting and has since niched into speechwriting - a nod back to her time in politics.

Last year, after 17 years in the Territory, Nyree returned to her home town of Brisbane to be closer to family.

When she's not writing, Nyree spends her time op shopping, adding to her unread book pile, and having cups of tea with her Nanna.



ANDREA KEREKES

Access PR, Co-founder | www.accesspr.com.au

Andrea co-founded Access in 2008 and has grown the business with her dedicated and dynamic team to now include some of the country's leading brands and high-profile organisations as clients. She has more than 25 years' experience in public relations, copywriting and journalism across both consumer and corporate areas, and is passionate about the agency's singular purpose of helping clients succeed.



BETHANY MALEY

Access PR, Managing Director (NT) | www.accesspr.com.au

Bethaney Maley has more than 15 years' experience as a highly skilled communications and community engagement specialist. Bethany spent more than five years as a policy and communications advisor to the Henderson and Martin Governments in the Territory and is a former Nine Network reporter and presenter. Now living and working in Darwin, Bethany understands how to address the unique challenges presented by the Territory's diverse population.



RACHEL DIKUL BAKER

Yolŋu Research Consultant | Cultural Competency Trainer |
NAATI Accredited Interpreter | Business Owner | Weaver |
www.australianwovenconnections.com

Dikul is a Djambarrpuyŋu woman from Njurruyurrdjurr in North-East Arnhem Land. She speaks Yolŋu languages and English. Dikul has her own consultancy business and also works as an interpreter and cultural competency trainer for various organisations including ARDS. She is a weaver who uses pandanus fibres with natural bush dyes.

Dikul completed her Diploma of Indigenous Research at Northern Institute (CDU) and is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology) at the University of Southern Queensland.



EMILY ARMSTRONG

Intercultural Communications Advisor | Researcher |
PhD Candidate

Emily Armstrong is a researcher in the field of intercultural communication and a PhD candidate with Northern Institute. Emily is a speech pathologist with diverse experience across a wide range of health, education and disability services. She has contributed to program development and implementation in a range of intercultural contexts – for example the first speech therapy training programs in Vietnam and Bangladesh and School Based Aboriginal Trainee programs in Allied Health Assistance (TAFE NSW).

Program outline

PATHWAYS TO POLITICS PROGRAM FOR WOMEN NT 2023

MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 8:30AM-4:30PM | NORTHERN INSTITUTE (CDU)

Session 1:

Welcome and introduction

Workshop: Code of Conduct and political planning exercise

Facilitators: Kate Macfarlane & Kim Humphrey

Session 2:

Morning tea

Meet and greet hosted by the Patron, Her Honour Vicki O'Halloran, Advisory Committee members, and other members of the University.

Session 3:

Alumni Panel discussion

Sibella Hare Breidahl, Rosanna De Santis, Emily Raso

Session 4:

Meet the Politician lunch

Minister Manison ALP

Session 5:

Introduction to policy making processes and stakeholders,

including a case study of legislative reform in conversation with a politician

Facilitator: Salli Cohen with Minister Lawler (ALP)

TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 8:30AM-4:30PM | NORTHERN INSTITUTE (CDU)

Session 1:

Pre selection and political parties

Tips on navigating pre-selection, provide insights into how to get the most out of the party system
Duration:1-1.5 hours.

Speaker: Jonathan Parry (NT Greens Party)

Session 2:

Local government pathways

This panel discussion will provide insights into different political pathways in local politics, challenges and benefits, and making a difference in the NT context.

Speakers: Mayor Anthina Pascoe-Bell, Lynette De Santis and Councillor Sarah Henderson.

Session 3:

Meet the Politician lunch

Leader of the Opposition, Lia Finocchiaro (CLP)

Session 4:

Online workshop

Effective communications while managing risks and staying safe on your campaign

This workshop will discuss effective communication strategies as a political candidate across social media and in person contexts, strategies for dealing with at-risk behaviour, and further resources.

Facilitator: Dr Kate Macfarlane

Speakers: Ruth McGowan OAM

PATHWAYS TO POLITICS PROGRAM FOR WOMEN NT 2023

WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 8:30AM-4:30PM | NORTHERN INSTITUTE (CDU)

Session 1:

Introduction to Speech Writing (Part 1)

Speaker: Nyree Slatter

Session 2:

Leadership panel

This panel will provide insight into the opportunities and challenges of leadership faced by women across different sectors and professions; attributes needed to be an effective leader, reflections on their pathways to being a leader, and thoughts on building a more equitable and inclusive society.

Speaker: Clare Martin, Kirsty Howey and Lenore Dembsky

Session 3:

Media training (Part 1)

Speaker: Andrea Kerekes & Bethaney Maley (Access PR)

Session 4:

Afternoon tea with Minister Moss (ALP)

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 8:30AM-4:30PM | NORTHERN INSTITUTE (CDU)

Session 1:

Speechwriting (Part 2)

Nyree Slatter

Session 2:

Media training (Part 2)

Andrea Kerekes & Bethaney Maley (Access PR)

Session 3:

Intercultural workshop

Workshop participants will be supported to reflect on, discuss and strengthen their intercultural communication skills with respect for the diversity within and between communities.

Emily Armstrong & Rachel Dikul Baker

PATHWAYS TO POLITICS PROGRAM FOR WOMEN NT 2023

FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 9:00AM-1:00PM | PARLIAMENT HOUSE

STUMP SPEECH & GRADUATION DAY

Session 1

FINAL SPEECHES AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Participants will present their final 'stump speeches' to a panel of judges at Parliament House.

Judging panel:

Her Honour Vicki O'Halloran

Professor Kim Humphery

Dr Meredith Martin

Ms Kezia Purick (Ind)

Session 2

GRADUATION EVENT

Keynote Speaker: Georgie Corrie; YES Campaign Manager NT & Pathways to Politics Program for Women Alumni (2022)

Participants will be awarded Certificates of Completion by Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran.

2023 Cohort Graduation photographs

Light refreshments will be served.



Judging Panel



**HER HONOUR
VICKI O'HALLORAN AO**
Patron



**PROFESSOR
KIM HUMPHERY**
Director, Northern Institute
(CDU)



MS KEZIA PURICK MLA
Member for Goyder



DR MEREDITH MARTIN
Director, Pathways to
Politics Program for Women
(University of Melbourne)



Keynote speaker

GEORGIE CORRIE

Yes23 NT Coordinator | Alumni Pathways to Politics Program for Women (2022)

Georgie Corrie is a proud Nyamal Woman and Nurse with immeasurable experience in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector in clinical and leadership roles. Born and raised on Wurundjeri Land of the Kulin Nation, Georgie's love of the Territory started in 2009 after spending time on Arrernte Country. Following the completion of her studies with Australian Catholic University and consolidating her knowledge at the Royal Children's Hospital. Georgie relocated to the Territory in 2015.

Georgie has pursued a career in Aboriginal Health and has cared across the lifespan in roles in Child Health, Chronic Disease, and Generalist Remote Area Nursing. Passionate about empowering communities to be their own decision makers, Georgie worked with Yolju in Ramingining to transition the Ramingining Clinic from NT Government to Miwatj Health. Georgie has returned to Purple House in their Top End Operations as Living a Good Life Manager fostering two-way working in line with the organisation's strategic goals. Georgie is an advocate for youth justice reforms and works with Danila Dilba Health Service at Don Dale Clinic, the first Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) to provide primary health care in a youth detention setting in Australia.

In 2022, Georgie graduated in the first cohort of the Northern Territory Pathways to Politics Program for Women then in 2023 she put away her stethoscope to campaign for Yes23 as their NT Coordinator.

Guiding principles

The program provides a safe space for women of diverse backgrounds, professions, cultures and ideologies to fulfill their shared aspiration to pursue public office. Each cohort benefits from the wisdom and extraordinary candour of speakers from all sides of politics.

The **Pathways to Politics Program for Women Guiding Principles**, which are designed to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment for all, underscore multi-partisanship and cultural safety as key tenets of the program:

- 1 Regard, value and recognise the perspectives of others
- 2 Consider and honour differing points of view
- 3 Take full advantage of the rich backgrounds and abilities of all, recognising and valuing differences
- 4 Listen and speak with honesty, openness and respect
- 5 Support open discussion by respecting the confidence of others in accordance with the **Chatham House Rule**.

In accepting a place in the Pathways to Politics Program for Women participants agree to abide by the standards of behaviour outlined in the **Code of Conduct** which was included in your letter of offer.



Knowledge Hub

Find practical tools, information and inspiration to help you in your run for public office.

Our online Knowledge Hub aims to provide women across the political spectrum with practical tools, information and inspiration to run for public office, as well as to amplify thought leadership in the areas of gender parity and political representation. www.pathwaystopolitics.org.au/knowledge-hub

The Knowledge Hub has four main Categories:

Why it matters

How Australia stacks up when it comes to gender equality and political representation, and what needs to happen to change the face of politics.

Deciding to run

A starting place to explore your options and potential to run for public office.

Getting elected

Campaigning tips, tricks and guidance to winning public office; local, state, and federal.

Being a political leader

Making the most of your skills, power and influence to exercise strong leadership skills in politics and public life.

The Knowledge Hub provides FREE access to valuable resources including: Videos | Speeches | Presentations | Articles | Reports | Downloads | Toolkits and Interviews.





Intensive program venue

Address: 'Savanna Room', Northern Institute, Yellow Building 1, Level 2, Room 48, Charles Darwin University (Casuarina Campus)

The Savanna Room at Northern Institute will be our venue for the following dates:

- **Monday 11 September**
- **Tuesday 12 September**
- **Wednesday 13 September**
- **Thursday 14 September**

For participants staying at International House CDU Guest Apartments on campus, the Northern Institute is a short walk from your accommodation across University Drive North.

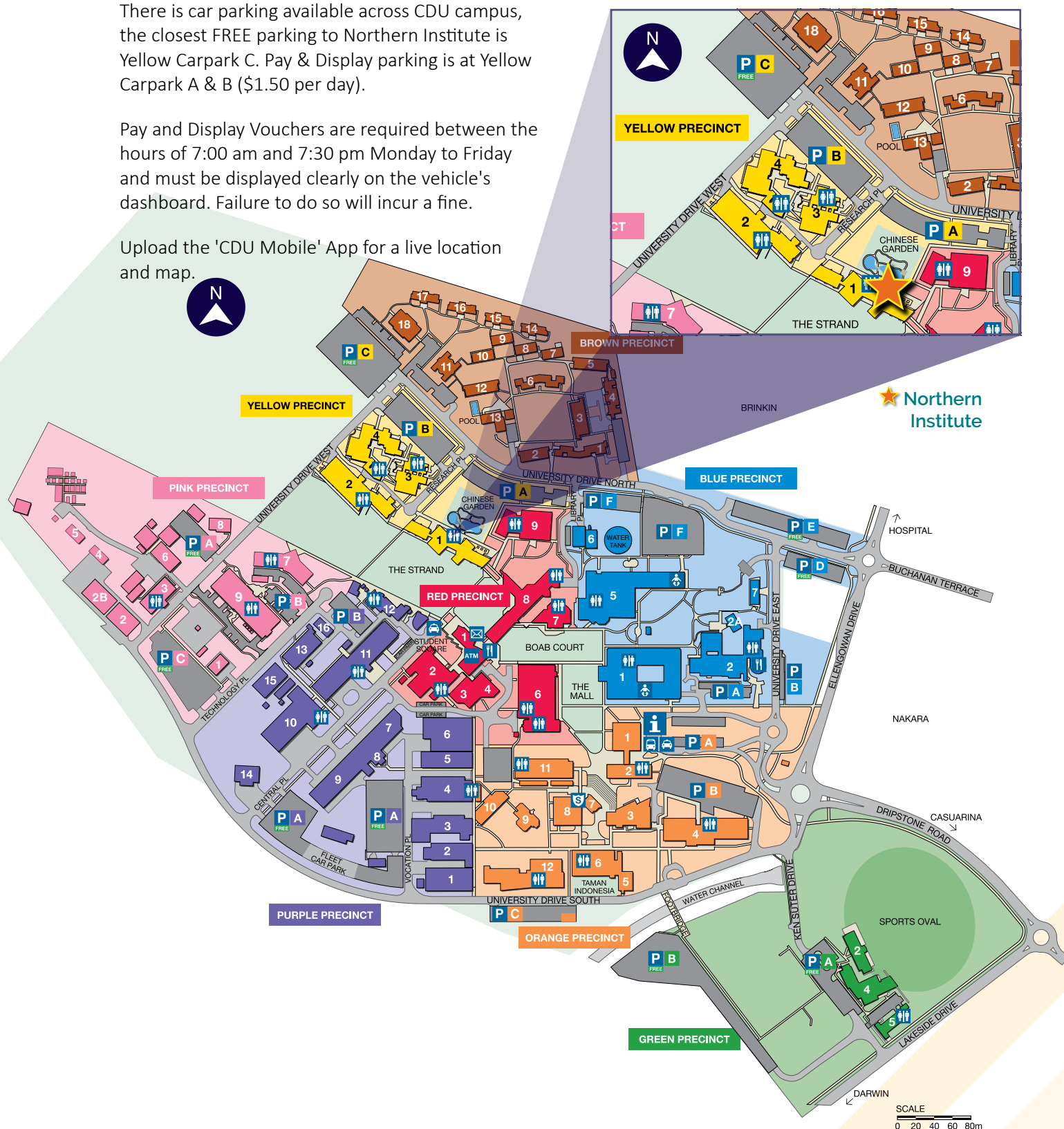
The Northern Institute entry is directly across from the Chinese Garden either take the stairs up to level 2 or the elevator which is located to the right of the stairway (ground floor).

CDU map and carparking

There is car parking available across CDU campus, the closest FREE parking to Northern Institute is Yellow Carpark C. Pay & Display parking is at Yellow Carpark A & B (\$1.50 per day).

Pay and Display Vouchers are required between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:30 pm Monday to Friday and must be displayed clearly on the vehicle's dashboard. Failure to do so will incur a fine.

Upload the 'CDU Mobile' App for a live location and map.





Graduation venue

Address: Parliament House, Level 4, 15 Mitchell St, Darwin City NT 0800

Nitmiluk Lounge & Dining Room will be our venue for the final day:

- **Friday 15 September**

Parliament House parking

Please visit the City of Darwin website for a parking location map and costs of on-street and off-street parking available in the Darwin CBD.

NT Cohort 2023

Cohort members gain entry into the Program through a competitive application process, and the participants selected for this year each demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership potential in their respective fields. 11 participants were selected in 2023, a significant achievement given that this is only the second year of the program in the Northern Territory. The group is professionally diverse, including participants from government, corporate sector, and the business sector.

6 cohort members are not affiliated with a political party, followed by NT Greens Party (2), ALP (1), CLP (1), and Independent (1). The cohort consists of women from diverse cultural, language and geographic backgrounds. Two cohort members identify as First Nations Australians.

NT Cohort 2023 (alphabetical order):

Anika Alam	Tanya Moran
Suki Dorras-Walker	Deanne Rioli
Rana Everett	Nicole Sabamba
Lavinia Gaff	Jacqueline Taylor
Que Nakamarra Kenny	Laurie Zio
Sunny Liu	



ANIKA ALAM

I am immensely proud to be Bangladeshi. Thanks to my father's profession, I travelled through numerous countries, accumulating life-altering experiences immersed in diverse cultures. In 2007, I moved to Sydney (Australia) as an international student. I graduated with a bachelor degree and four diplomas. I worked as a retail team member during my student years and advocated for retail members' rights as an SDA union delegate.

Over the years, I have volunteered with local councils, UN Women, and the Red Crescent. In 2016, my journey led me to Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. I joined Australian Regional and Remote Community Services (ARRCS), where I assumed the role of Case Manager for Aged Care, Mental Health, and Disability. I have been driven by a deep desire to serve the Northern Territory community since then. I have focused on supporting women with domestic violence, the NDIS, youth and families, and the elderly. My expertise lies within the NDIS. I've engaged with numerous organizations in various executive roles such as Life Without Barriers, Anglicare, Link Up, the local government council, Darwin Community Legal Service, and Lifestyle Solutions. I am pleased to be a part of the Northern Territory (NT) Disability Strategy 2022-2032. To contribute to my knowledge to the NDIS, I am studying a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy.

My connection with Indigenous communities is profound – I've travelled to thirty-two different Indigenous communities and been given skin names. When I feel sad or homesick, I return to Gunbalanya and Finke, places I have called home. This is my biggest accomplishment since moving to Australia.

I've been an active Labor Party member since 2009. This party is close to my heart, and I aspire to become a steadfast leader and advocate.



SUKI DORRAS-WALKER

Suki Dorras-Walker is a public school teacher of ten years and is now studying law while she raises her two children. Suki was born in Zimbabwe, raised in Vanuatu, moved to Australia for university, and now calls the Territory home. Suki believes strongly in the power of community to effect positive change. She has been heavily involved in the campaign to save native tropical savannah woodland at Lee Point, and community campaigns opposing the gas expansion currently underway in the Northern Territory.

Suki is passionate about securing a safe climate for future generations and is part of a nationwide movement across the country calling for an end to fossil fuel extraction in Australia. In August 2023, Suki travelled with a contingent of NT parents and doctors to deliver an open letter against government subsidies to fossil fuel developments and met with federal parliamentarians to raise the alarm about the impacts of climate change on the Top End. Suki is committed to raising the voices of her fellow community members, and has shared their stories about climate change in speeches at rallies in Darwin and on the lawns of Parliament House.

Suki strongly believes that while climate change poses an existential threat, it also provides us with an opportunity to create positive change and create communities that are better for people and the environment. She is committed to changing politics so that governments are acting for the long-term benefit of people and the environment, not for the short-term profit of a few.



RANA EVERETT

Rana Everett is an accomplished mechanical engineer and the founder and managing director of Everett Consulting NT. This role allows Rana to balance her commitment to her young family and her community while pursuing her passion for ensuring compliance in transport, mining and construction projects. With 27 years of living and loving the Darwin and rural areas life, Rana has been raising her 4 children, gained her mechanical engineering degree from Charles Darwin University, and has been working in engineering consulting and manufacturing.

Everett Consulting NT's diverse and innovative work now also covers the Great Southern WA. Rana is actively involved in renewable energy projects, such as wave energy generators and is playing a role in the Australian on-road certification of solar cars for the Darwin to Adelaide, Bridgestone World Solar Car Race 2023. Throughout her career, Rana has been actively involved with industry bodies and has often held committee positions. For the past five years, she has organised a monthly casual women's business support group at Kezia Purick's office in Coolalinga. Rana's interests extend to electric vehicles and promoting a circular economy for the betterment of the environment. She is deeply passionate about her family, community, small business, the natural environment, and sharing her knowledge to empower others and help them achieve their best.



LAVINIA GAFF

I live in Alice Springs, and I am a wife and mother of three young children. I have lived in Alice Springs for over 20 years, and I own and manage multiple businesses locally, so I am heavily invested in the town. I previously owned and operated a music tutoring business where I taught singing and guitar lessons but unfortunately, due to the high level of crime and the impact on my business, I had to close down. However, this has made me resilient and work harder to achieve a stable future for myself and my family. I understand the hardships of trying to run a business in Central Australia which, I believe, is exacerbated by the current crime situation. This has given me firsthand insight into the realities of operating businesses in Alice Springs, especially due to the conditions and challenges we all face in the Northern Territory.

“It is not action I fear, rather inaction” Winston Churchill

This is why I decided to pursue politics, I was fed up with current policies on law and order and wanted to advocate for local businesses. Recently, I joined the CLP and started a Diploma in Political Studies this year. I have also been helping local business owners to secure funding for grants for youth, to be a part of the solution. I am hoping to be able to voice concerns about crime, lack of childcare, after school care and increased costs of living. It's our job to make sure children and families have access to resources they need in a rural community, whilst preserving cultural richness so that we can be a solution to the future.



QUE NAKAMARRA KENNY

My name is Que Nakamarra Kenny. I am a first nations Arranda trans woman and I am from Walkabout homelands but grew up in Hermannsburg and now reside in Titjikala Community, 112 kilometres south of Alice Springs where I work. My position is MacDonnell Regional Council Services Co-ordinator. I have worked for the Council for eight years and have worked in different departments within the organization.

I have other roles that I do outside of my scope of employment as a Northern Territory Greens political party member and as a human rights-environmental activist. I am also a spokesperson for local Indigenous affairs within my communities. I have travelled through Europe and to the UK in 2019 and have spoken at major events. My first international talks were in relation to corrupt mining companies in remote communities of Central Australia.

I have an interest in politics as I see that it is the most important part of our Australian lives and of the society we live in. Understanding the democratic system and especially being an Indigenous person has given me the ability to be open-minded and have a fuller understanding of Australian Politics. Indigenous Australians are a minority in our own country; we are the most vulnerable people, and this has lead me to be able to walk in both worlds.

I would like to see Indigenous Australians able to live in a fair country where we are all equal and accepted without being discriminated against. From my time in my younger days, discrimination has had a very negative impact when going places, but it has helped me to grow strong and fight the hard fight and walk in harmony with other Australians.



SUNNY LIU

Sunny moved to Australia as a 17-year-old international student and has since completed a Bachelor of Arts from Monash University and a Master of Teaching from Charles Darwin University. She has been a founding member and the Vice-Chair of the not-for-profit, volunteer-led organisation Kindness Shake; supporting Northern Territory international students with free meals, employability programs, social events and the annual Kindness Festival. Kindness Shake has won several awards, such as the NT Volunteer Organisation of the Year and the City of Darwin Community Event of the Year.

Sunny actively represents and advocates for international student wellbeing, youth empowerment, and multicultural communities through various voluntary roles such as: 2021 NT Youth Week Ambassador, 2020-22 Multicultural Council NT committee member, 2022 Headspace Youth Advisory Group member, 2020-21 Study NT Student Ambassador, and 2022 United States Consulate General Youth Advisory Group member.

In 2022, Sunny won the People's Choice Award at the NT Young Achiever Awards. She currently works as a Senior Project Officer at Study NT for the NT Government, focusing on international student engagement.

From her humble beginnings as an international student in Australia, she has transformed into a dynamic force for change, dedicated to improving the lives of international students, migrants, and youth and fostering a sense of belonging within Australia's multicultural communities.

Fun fact about Sunny - she is an adrenaline seeker whose favourite activities include bungee jumping, skydiving, scuba diving and skiing. She lives with her 8-year-old King Charles Cavalier, Molly, once named the "Cutest Dog in the NT" by the NT News.

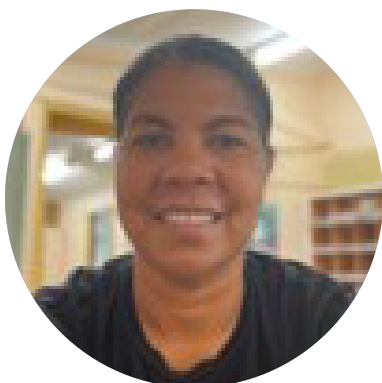


TANYA MORAN

From my early years in Darwin to my move to Victoria in 1997, my 25-year journey has seen its fair share of challenges, including the unexpected twists of COVID-19 lockdowns. As an educator, I quickly adapted to the pandemic's impact, coming up with new teaching tricks to keep the learning going and engaging the community. These experiences made me even more committed to making real, positive changes, especially in education and building stronger communities.

Beyond my educator hat, I'm a proud parent of two twenty plus year olds, always encouraging learning languages, music, and staying fit and healthy through individual and team sports. With a love of the outdoors, kayaking and snorkelling top my list; and I'm always ready to capture a moment with a picture if I can. I'm all about creating environments where everyone feels supported, with a sense of purpose and a helping hand to succeed. I truly believe that when we're all in this together, amazing things can happen.

My journey spans industries and education, drawing from Darwin's tight-knit community and my family's pizza shop where I was raised. Growing up, my parents, who migrated to Darwin over 50 years ago, placed great emphasis on education and community contribution. Returning to Darwin in 2022, I'm dedicated to enhancing education and lives across all backgrounds and fostering stronger communities. Currently, I am an Assistant Director of Engagement Programs for the NT Department of Education, leading the implementation of the Quality Standards Framework for Flexible Education Programs. With varied experience, a strong work ethic, and lessons from challenges, I'm focused on improving engagement, promoting growth, and creating inclusive opportunities that strengthen communities.



DEANNE RIOLI

My Name is Deane Rioli, and I am a proud Munupi women from the Tiwi Islands. I am a mother of four beautiful children, and I've been with their father (my partner) for 25 years. I come from a well-known sporting family, and six brothers have made it to the top level of AFL. From my dad's father to my brothers, my dad and myself, we are deeply involved in politics and leadership on the Tiwi Islands. From 2018 to 2020 I worked with Tiwi islands regional council. I started as Night Patrol Team leader and within 6 months I was appointed acting manager then was successful in becoming the manager. I went on to coordinate sport and recreation and libraries for the council and eventually became manager for community engagement under the director of community engagement. At the end of 2020 I left the council and accepted a position with Essendon Football Club to be the first Deadly Choices Manager for Tiwi Islands. In 2022 I left Essendon to join Tiwi College and became the Boarding Coordinator. I'm still at Tiwi College, but I now work in student wellbeing and academy. I'm still heavily involved with the AFL on the Tiwi Islands for both men and women.

I'm also a contemporary Tiwi artist. In 1998 & 2002 I studied arts in Cairns TAFE. I believe in supporting the dreams of our Elders of the Tiwi Islands and continuing with the legacies they have left behind, such as the Tiwi Bombers football club, which was created in response to all the suicides on the Tiwi Islands. We had the highest suicides rates in the world in the 1990's. Tiwi College was formed so that Tiwi children had the opportunity of receiving an education, as most struggled going to high school on the mainland. Finally, I'm a very complete fisherwoman; my weekends are for Family, Fishing and Football.



NICOLE SABAMBA

Nicole Sabamba is a proud African-Australian woman who has called the Northern Territory home for over a decade. Nicole graduated with a Bachelor of Laws and Arts from Charles Darwin University in 2015 and was subsequently admitted to practice as a legal practitioner of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory in October 2015. Nicole began her legal career as a graduate lawyer in the 12-month graduate program with the Northern Territory Government's Department of the Attorney General and Justice. Whilst participating in the graduate program, she fell in love with the work of the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions Northern Territory (ODPPNT) and decided to apply for a prosecutor position. She won the position in May 2016 and conducted criminal prosecutions for over three years; and during that time, learned a lot about the serious impact crime has on our society.

In an effort to diversify her professional experience, Nicole left the ODPPNT and took up a management position as the Manager of Professional Conduct in the office of the Teacher Registration Board of the Northern Territory and she has been in that role since July 2019. Nicole also volunteers at the Top End Women's Legal Service in Darwin.

With the social observations that Nicole has made of the Northern Territory, coupled with her professional experience, she is driven to contributing meaningfully to society. She has a keen interest in education and crime, in particular domestic violence and youth crime. Nicole believes that getting involved in politics and actively contributing to the ideas that help shape the laws in our community would allow her to be part of a solution that works to ensure that our community is thriving and is as safe as it can be for all of us.



JACQUELINE TAYLOR

Jacqui's life is characterised by a deep connection to nature and community. She is motivated by opportunities to rebalance our interactions and relationship with nature and is passionate about providing future generations with a healthy planet. As an environmental scientist, she understands the fundamental role ecosystems play in our society, our economy and our future on Earth. She is humbled by the wisdom with which First Nations people managed land and sea country for millennia.

With tertiary qualifications in Marine Science and Management, her professional experience spans marine conservation, research, stakeholder engagement, policy development, film production and community-led management of marine resources. In 2016, she was instrumental in advocating for the government's development of the Territory's first Coastal and Marine Management Strategy.

Jacqui is deeply concerned with the lack of political will and leadership for climate justice and is passionate about democracy and integrity in politics. Inspired by the community independents movement across Australia, she co-founded Voices of the Top End (VoTE) and is now the inaugural Chair. VoTE enjoys listening to the community's concerns and looks forward to community voices represented by the people we elect.

Jacqui also established Friends of Robin Falls to advocate for environmental protection and visitor management at Robin Falls. With an early career in tourism, she understands the unique value of our natural and cultural landscapes and the opportunities well-managed tourism brings to our society. In collaboration with community, traditional custodians and stakeholders, she developed and implemented a series of environmental protection measures for the well-being of both nature and the broader community.

Born on Larrakia country, Jacqui is a proud Territorian. She now lives with her partner and her two children between Darwin and their bush home south of Robin Falls where they have permaculture gardens and manage the land for conservation.



LAURIE ZIO

Originally born in South Australia, Laurie moved to Alice Springs with her parents in 1994. When she reflects on her move, Laurie states that 'relocating to the NT provided her with amazing opportunities'. She spent her teenage years exploring all the things growing up in the NT has to offer; a great education and lifestyle, sports, travel and quality friendships. As an adult, Laurie believes there is no better place to raise a family and continue to build on the opportunities provided to her when she was younger.

Laurie has three grown up children and, since 2001 along with her family, has travelled and worked all over the Territory. These places include; Alice Springs, Yuendumu, Tennant Creek, Alekarenge, Borroloola, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy, Ramingining and Gapuwiyak (to name a few). Beyond her familial and work commitments, Laurie is an avid sports enthusiast. Whether it is playing a game, cheering on family and friends or supporting local and national/international games, Laurie finds joy and camaraderie in the world of sports. Laurie believes sport is a wonderful way to maintain an active lifestyle, whilst sharing quality time with friends and family.

Laurie has worked in senior roles for the Department of Education since 2008, across many business units and has a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration, along with a number of other nationally accredited certificates. In 2023, Laurie successfully completed the Community Justice Centre's Practical Mediation course. Laurie's application of work/life balance, common sense and ongoing love for learning has equipped her with a strong foundation to excel in various aspects of life. With a firm belief in the power of education, Laurie always strives to foster an environment that encourages learning and personal growth.





The inaugural 2022 Pathways to Politics Program for Women (NT) was delivered on-line and in-person at Northern Institute over a period of 3 months (October - December).





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