

## CAEPR RESEARCH PLAN 2006–2008

The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) will be in its 16<sup>th</sup> year in 2006. Over the past 14 years, CAEPR has developed annual research plans. More recently, especially with enhanced reliance on national competitive funding, the Centre has changed its planning horizons to a rolling triennial basis. The current CAEPR Research Plan 2006–2008 was developed at a meeting in November 2005, with input provided by a number of key stakeholders and all CAEPR staff. The Plan is built around three broad inter-related themes:

- Indigenous Economic and Social Circumstances: Determinants, Diversity, and Difference
- Development Options for Sustainable Indigenous Futures
- Education, Governance and Capacity Development: Tools for Strategic Engagement

The division of the Plan into three themes is primarily undertaken for operational reasons; there is no suggestion that any of the themes stands alone—a feature of CAEPR's interdisciplinary approach is to holistically integrate all its research. Projects are listed according to primary thematic orientation, but almost all have links to other themes. PhD students are indicated by italicised names.

### **Theme 1: Indigenous Economic and Social Circumstances: Determinants, Diversity, and Difference**

#### **Project 1.1: Assessing Recent Evidence on Indigenous Socioeconomic Outcomes: A focus on the 2002 NATSISS**

CAEPR staff: Will present the latest evidence on Indigenous economic and social status and family and community life and discuss its implications for government policy, based on the August 2005 CAEPR conference.

#### **Project 1.2: Desert and savanna demography**

Taylor: Research to continue on measuring population change among Indigenous peoples in various ecological zones including arid and semi arid areas, and the tropical savanna. A book chapter on Indigenous migration will be prepared.

#### **Project 1.3: Pathways to improved educational attainment**

Hunter, Schwab, *Biddle*: This ARC linkage grant between CAEPR and the ABS is on track for completion in October 2006, with the completion of the PhD thesis.

#### **Project 1.4: Baseline profiles for good governance**

Taylor: The Thamarrur opportunity costs report, co-authored with Owen Stanley, will be revised for publication in a journal, and a report on Thamarrur population estimates will be finalised.

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### **Project 1.5: Learning to Drink: Then and Now**

Brady: This project on the social and historical determinants of Indigenous alcohol and tobacco use examines the diversity of historical experiences with, and responses to, these substances by Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

### **Project 1.6: An Integrated Analysis of the Social Context of Indigenous Poverty**

Hunter (and Research Associate): Builds on the poverty measurement literature; ARC Discovery Project in collaboration with Prof David de Vaus, La Trobe University, 2006–08 will commence.

### **Project 1.7: Below replacement fertility among Indigenous Australians**

Taylor (and Research Associate): ARC Discovery Project on ‘Below replacement fertility among Indigenous Australians: Course, Causes and Regional Variations, 2006–2008’ will commence.

### **Project 1.8: Econometrics Society conference**

Hunter: Sessions to be convened at the Econometrics Society conference 2006 analysing issues in small populations.

### **Project 1.9: Changes in the CDEP scheme – 1999 to 2004**

Hunter, *Biddle*, Altman: Hunter and Biddle will examine the recent changes in CDEP scheme and Indigenous socioeconomic status with a particular focus on the geographic dimensions of the analysis. Altman will continue research on the role of the CDEP scheme for community and regional development.

### **Project 1.10: The 2006 Census and Indigenous People in Remote Areas**

Taylor, Sanders, Morphy: ARC Linkage Project subtitled ‘Assessing the Quality of the Enumeration Process and Resulting Data, 2006–2008’ will commence.

## **Theme 2: Development Options for Sustainable Indigenous Futures**

### **Project 2.1: Indigenous Community Organisations and Miners: Partnering Sustainable Regional Development**

Altman, Holcombe, Martin, *Scambary*, Taylor: The research phase of this project has concluded; research results are being prepared for publication. Scambary will complete his doctoral thesis.

### **Project 2.2: Development options in remote contexts**

Altman: Collaborative research will be undertaken with Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, and will cover issues relating to the importation, local production and marketing of staple goods in Indigenous communities for the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS).

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### **Project 2.3: Subjectivity and the State**

BSmith: This ARC Discovery project will analyse the deepening involvement of the state in Aboriginal lives through ethnographic research in northern Queensland.

### **Project 2.4: CAEPR-DLGHS research contract**

DSmith: Research advice to continue, focusing on the policy and practical challenges of Northern Territory Regional Authorities and related government policy; community governance; and Northern Territory Government policy in the context of new Federal Government policies relevant to Indigenous governance issues.

### **Project 2.5: Philanthropy, non-government organisations and Indigenous development**

Hunt, Schwab: Research to continue on the role of philanthropic foundations and Non-Government Organisations in Indigenous community development.

### **Project 2.6: Eastern Kuninjku customary economy**

Altman: Collaborative research to continue with Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation focusing on the economic impact of the customary sector and its sustainability; research results for the project on timber harvest management for the Aboriginal arts industry to be published. Appointment to Kakadu Board of Management will involve collaborative work.

### **Project 2.7: Measuring changes in social and economic wellbeing**

Altman: Collaboration with the North Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA).

### **Project 2.8: Cape York research**

BSmith: Research to continue on native title claims in Cape York Peninsula, including the Batavia Downs Native Title Claim (Northern Kaanju, Yinwum and Atampaya peoples).

### **Project 2.9: Land rights and native title**

BSmith, Morphy, *Scambary*, Altman, Morphy: Smith and Morphy will edit volume of papers presented at the 2005 CAEPR Workshop 'Effects of Native Title'. Morphy will make submission to Attorney-General's Departmental review on native title.

### **Project 2.10: Customary use of wild resources**

Hunter, Altman, Buchanan: Will examine whether water and water-based natural resources provide economic benefits to an Aboriginal community in the River Murray region; under the CSIRO Flagship Collaboration Fund in collaboration with CSIRO, Charles Sturt University, the Murray and Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN), and the Ngarrindjeri People.

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### **Project 2.11: Homeland living: Economic viability of outstations, effective natural resource management and border protection**

Altman, Morphy, BSmith and others: Research to be negotiated with FACS in relation to homeland living and the economic viability of outstations, which will synthesise outcomes of research from Projects 2.6–2.10.

### **Project 2.12: Kimberley institutional factors**

Arthur: Research for the CDU will be published.

### **Project 2.13: Learning from the development and implementation of Australia's National Indigenous Forestry Strategy**

Altman: Altman is a Chief Investigator on this ARC Linkage project which aims to inform and monitor the evolving National Indigenous Forestry Strategy.

### **Project 2.14: Socioeconomic importance of Turtle and Dugong Harvesting**

Altman, Arthur, Buchanan: Work to continue with the Technical Reference Group for the Dugong and Marine Turtle Management Project, NAILSMA.

## **Theme 3: Education, Governance and Capacity Development: Tools for Strategic Engagement**

### **Project 3.1: Indigenous Community Governance Project**

CAEPR staff, *Thorburn*: The project is investigating the structures, processes, institutions, leadership, powers and capabilities of Indigenous community governance across rural, remote and urban settings. It seeks to understand and assess the effectiveness of different forms of governance and their consequences for socioeconomic development.

### **Project 3.2: The potential for regional governance in sparsely settled desert areas**

Sanders, Holcombe: Research with the Anmatjere Community Government Council, Central Australia, examines governance arrangements focused on single remote communities and the potential for moves towards larger scale multiple locality regional community governance arrangements.

### **Project 3.3: New administrative arrangements**

Sanders, Gray: Will report on and analyse interviews undertaken in late 2005 with Secretaries of Commonwealth Government Departments involved in the Secretaries Group on Indigenous Affairs.

### **Project 3.4: Indigenous school to work transitions**

Schwab, *Fogarty*: ARC Linkage Project on 'Custom-Based Land and Resource Management and the Educational and Social Re-engagement of Indigenous Youth in the Northern Territory', 2005–2008. Results of Schwab's Canadian Studies Award research project on 'Tradition-based Junior Ranger Programs as a Mechanism for the Educational and Social Re-engagement of At-risk Indigenous Youth' will be finalised.

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### **Project 3.5: Community engagement in literacy**

*Kral*: PhD to be completed in 2006 based on research in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands in Western Australia, observing everyday literacy practices.

### **Project 3.6: Torres Strait governance**

Sanders, Arthur: Will examine the working of the Torres Strait Regional Authority since the demise of ATSIC with a view to assessing how much difference this has made to the operation of the TSRA.

### **Project 3.7: Australian public policy in Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands**

*Tedmanson*: Doctoral research has commenced, with field work to be based in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands.

### **Project 3.8: OXFAM project**

Martin: Working with Oxfam's Indigenous Australia Program to further develop its capacity to partner with Indigenous organisations in the Pilbara and Gulf regions.

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