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**Our ref** DOC2008/05166

Secretariat  
Review of Australian Higher Education  
GPO Box 9880  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Professor Denise Bradley AC

**RE: REVIEW OF AUSTRALIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Thank you for your letter of 7 July 2008 addressed to Minister for Employment, Education and Training inviting the Northern Territory to contribute to the Review of Australian Higher Education. I am responding on the Minister's behalf as the Northern Territory Government is in caretaker mode.

The Northern Territory welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Review Expert Panel on the 8 July 2008 to discuss the issues highlighted in the Discussion paper.

Some of the key points raised were the:

- Disparity between the educational achievement levels in Indigenous and non Indigenous students and the need to maintain or increase enabling and support programs for Indigenous students
- High cost of service delivery in regional and remote locations and to ensure that infrastructure such as bandwidth is universally accessible.
- Ageing workforce and possibly providing greater incentives to international students to undertake study and research and stay in Australia as one mechanism to address and emerging skill shortage
- Difficulties around the capacity of service providers to provide adequate and sustainable clinical and practicum placements and the need to increase financial incentives to adequately cover placements.

Of particular interest to the Review Expert Panel were the two partnership Agreements between the Northern Territory's two public providers of higher education and the Northern Territory Government (NTG). You requested further information regarding this and I have included the following links for the Charles Darwin University and NTG Partnership Agreement ([www.cdu.edu.au/government/schedules](http://www.cdu.edu.au/government/schedules)) and the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and the NTG ([www.batchelor.edu.au/ntgpartnership/](http://www.batchelor.edu.au/ntgpartnership/)).

I can be contacted on 08 8901 1308 or email [kim.jenkinson@nt.gov.au](mailto:kim.jenkinson@nt.gov.au) should you require any further assistance

Yours sincerely

KIM JENKINSON  
GENERAL MANGER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

14 August 2008