



From their entry into our University as first-year students to their graduation and beyond, ACU National students experience a unique education.

Our Mission distinguishes both their learning experience and the teaching environment. It is actively embraced by our students, be they undergraduates or postgraduates, local or international, in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Ballarat, Melbourne or elsewhere. Like our staff, our students are committed to making a difference.

Student services in 2006 included programs and individual support aimed at developing the intellectual, personal and spiritual life of each student. Our community of learning values equity, social justice and the dignity of all human beings. This supportive learning environment is valued by our students who consistently comment favourably on the level of support they receive throughout their time at ACU National.

In 2006, we increased the level of Indigenous representation in our major decision-making bodies. We received a five-star rating for Indigenous participation in the *Good Universities Guide 2007*, placing us in the top 20 per cent of universities in Australia in terms of the proportion of students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent currently enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

2006 also saw the establishment of a comprehensive First Year Experience Program (FYE) supported by a FYE Coordinator and six campus-based FYE coordinators. Their role is to enhance the students' transition to University and help them establish foundations for successful studies throughout their time at ACU National.

Small class sizes mean students at all campuses get to know each other and staff well, while the high qualification levels, experience and commitment of our valued staff amplify the benefits.



### Student contributions

Inside the lecture halls, tutorial rooms and teaching and research laboratories of our six campuses, students of Health, Education, Human Services, Business and other disciplines grappled with the latest theory and research findings in their fields.

Out of hours, however, their learning and service continued. Many chose to express their growing awareness of the needs of others in new ways, and, through community engagement, acting on their sense of responsibility for bringing about changes for the better.

In 2006, the ACU National Student Association (ACUNSA) focused on national events and plans for activities that would be common across the six campuses. The Association was actively involved in Open Days and Orientation week including coordination and delivery of campus tours and sessions on how to balance life and study, and how to make the most of the student experience.

2006 committee members were Aron Oulton and Mark Young from Brisbane, Joseph Mendoza from North Sydney, Adrian Pulley from Strathfield, Brent Simpson from Canberra, Belinda Wupperman from Ballarat and Simone Spaulding from Melbourne.

The Association has focused efforts on adapting to the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) and limiting its impact on student community life on each campus. Responses to VSU have included capitalising on the national character of student activities, planning for a national student website, radio/web links for each association common room and producing 2007 national student diaries. Each campus association is also reviewing its constitution in light of VSU.

The University entered the Australian University Games, a national sporting competition which calls all Australian universities together to compete across a wide variety of sports. The Melbourne Campus Australian Rules Football team won the National Women's AFL competition.

This Association, through its presidents, made every attempt to ensure that the University Mission was central to common student activities.

Students from all six campuses gathered at the Brisbane Campus for The Big Event, focusing on Awareness, Advocacy and Action under the theme Coming Together, Making a Difference.

The Social Justice Youth Forum at Brisbane Campus in May, supported by the Brisbane Catholic Education Office, attracted 150 students from 18 schools who shared their views on racism, refugees, corporate ethics and justice.

The annual Great Bed Race, a charity fundraiser for cancer research at the Wesley Research Institute (WRI), was hosted by the Brisbane Campus School of Nursing in August in memory of Yvonne Locket-Young, who tragically died from cancer in early 2006.

A winter sleepout was held at the Canberra Campus in August to raise money and awareness of homelessness in the ACT. Participants donated funds for the Street Swags project, devised by Brisbane Campus graduate Jean Madden to make comfortable and cost effective bedding available to homeless people.

## Student statistics

With six campuses across Australia we offered academic programs in arts, business, counselling, education, environmental science, exercise science, information systems, management, midwifery, music, nursing, psychology, social science, social work and theology to more than 13,500 students in 2006.

Enrolments by state	ACT	%	NSW	%	QLD	%	VIC	%	Total	%
Research Services	19	5.5%	87	25.1%	93	26.9%	147	42.5%	346	2.6%
Faculty of Arts and Sciences	214	5.4%	1,525	38.2%	836	20.9%	1,416	35.5%	3,991	29.6%
Faculty of Education	426	8.2%	2,091	40.5%	1,201	23.2%	1,451	28.1%	5,169	38.3%
Faculty of Health Sciences			1,543	48.1%	490	15.3%	1,176	36.6%	3,209	23.8%
Combined Schools	11	1.4%	327	41.6%	308	39.2%	140	17.8%	786	5.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>670</b>		<b>5,573</b>		<b>2,928</b>		<b>4,330</b>		<b>13,501</b>	

Enrolments by level and state	ACT	%	NSW	%	QLD	%	VIC	%	Total	%
Higher degree research	19	5.5%	87	25.1%	93	26.9%	147	42.5%	346	65.9%
Higher degree coursework	83	5.0%	722	43.5%	476	28.7%	380	22.9%	1,661	316.4%
Other postgraduate	113	6.9%	400	24.5%	450	27.6%	669	41.0%	1,632	310.9%
Bachelor	450	4.9%	3,959	43.4%	1,696	18.6%	3,016	33.1%	9,121	1737.3%
Other undergraduate			94	43.5%	122	56.5%			216	41.1%
Non award	5	1.0%	311	59.2%	91		118	22.5%	525	3.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>670</b>		<b>5,573</b>		<b>2,928</b>		<b>4,330</b>		<b>13,501</b>	

Enrolments by age group	2006	%
19 and below	2,881	21.3%
20 - 24	4,843	35.9%
25 - 29	1,760	13.0%
30 - 39	1,947	14.4%
40 - 49	1,394	10.3%
50 - 59	556	4.1%
60 and above	120	0.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,501</b>	

## Student services

Student Services Unit provides a range of services including Mission Engagement, Counselling, Disability Services and Academic Skills Support. New staff were appointed in every area and on most campuses to meet the increased student numbers.

Academic Skills staff introduced an electronic booking system and this proved a successful way for students to make appointments to see staff.

Students were provided with an increasing variety of electronic aids across each area and there is evidence that these are a preferred option for many. International students continued to be the most frequent users of the services.

## Library

2006 highlights include finalisation of the Library's new strategic plan for 2006-2009 and accelerated progress towards greater use of online resources. There was a significant increase in electronic journal and reference holdings with the purchase of a major electronic book collection of over 30,000 titles, with strengths in Education, Nursing and the Humanities. Holdings of material listed in bibliographies from course unit outlines and past examination papers also increased.

Refurbishments were completed on each campus with substantial improvements in Canberra and Strathfield while significant progress was also made in cataloguing material held in special collections, giving greater access to valuable Art, Catholic Studies, Children's Literature and Music resources.

## ACUonline

Online teaching and learning continued to expand with strong growth in the number of online course units and the number of students accessing them. The outsourcing relationship with Netspot continued. Staff continued to work closely with academics developing online resources. ACUonline and the Institute for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning again collaborated in the delivery of training in the use of the online platform.

## Indigenous education

ACU National has established a strong national reputation in the field of Indigenous education, with increasing Indigenous student enrolments, and strong retention rates.

We collaborate with Indigenous communities and engage Elders and other representatives of the community in partnerships for educational advancement.

In addition to a range of Education, Health Sciences, Business and Informatics, Arts and Social Science programs, we have also designed and developed courses to specifically meet the educational and career needs of Indigenous students. These include a Bachelor of Education (Primary) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies), Diploma in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Associate degree in Business Administration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies).

Our Indigenous Support Units are staffed by highly qualified, mainly Indigenous staff, and provide a wide range of social, cultural, personal and academic support services for Indigenous students, while fostering intercultural understanding in learning areas and other activities of the University.

There are currently three Indigenous Support Units: Weemala on the Brisbane Campus, Jim-baa-yer located at both the Melbourne and Ballarat Campuses, and Yalbalinga at Strathfield, which serves the needs of Indigenous students enrolled at the Strathfield, North Sydney and Canberra Campuses.

Stephanie Jacob from Weemala was one of five recipients in Australia of an Indigenous Staff Scholarship which was presented to her by the Honourable Julie Bishop MP, Minister of Education, Science and Technology in Perth.

Other achievements included:

- Upgrading of the Diploma in Business Administration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) to an Associate Degree
- Tabling of an independent report on the work of the Indigenous Support Units commending them for their achievements
- Staff members and students from Weemala and Yalbalinga attended the Dreaming from the Heart Conference in Alice Springs commemorating the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1986

### International education

2006 was another successful year for the International Office with an increase in fee-paying numbers in degree programs across all Faculties.

A full-time student advisor has been appointed to meet the needs specifically of International students on the North Sydney Campus.



- A Teaching Indigenous Learners Resource for Pre-Service Teachers was developed by a team of writers from the School of Education (Qld), Weemala and Brisbane Catholic Education
- An Aboriginal student from Jim-baa-yer was awarded the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship to continue his Bachelor of Nursing Studies
- Indigenous students and staff participated in an Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Immersion Weekend guided by Aboriginal Elders and community members and developed by Jim-baa-yer staff
- A project to provide Indigenous students with internet access from their away-from-base communities was launched in Brisbane. The project is an initiative of the University, The Smith Family, and Green PC, and is supported by the Brisbane Airport Corporation
- Two members of staff from the Indigenous Support units were appointed to three key committees of the University: Executive Group, Academic Board, and the University Research and Research Training Management Committee
- The University's National Indigenous Advisory Committee continued to bring the voice of Indigenous people external to the University to discussion of policy and major procedures affecting their communities

Student recruitment staff travelled to many countries including Canada, India, China, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Latin America, Malaysia, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, the USA and Vietnam. Faculties are becoming more involved in the recruitment program giving a solid academic presence.

Exchange and Study Abroad programs were heavily promoted to increase the number of Australian students studying overseas.

The MBA Work Transition Seminar held in Melbourne was very successful and enabled students to improve their job seeking skills.

#### Total international student enrolments

2,070 (1,954 onshore, 116 offshore)

#### International Undergraduate

1,144 (1,112 onshore, 32 offshore)

#### International Postgraduate

488 (405 onshore, 83 offshore)

#### Non Award and Study Abroad

438 (437 onshore, 1 offshore)