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2015 was a time of significant growth for Nungalinya College in a whole variety of areas. Firstly, and most obviously, our student numbers continued to increase. Not only did the numbers of students actually applying and studying at the College increase, but more importantly, the number of students completing their courses and graduating has also increased.

We have also been gradually growing the number of courses we offer. This year we extended to include the Certificate IV in Theology. This demonstrated clearly the growth that students experience as they progress through the different courses.

The increased number of Indigenous Assistant Teachers has enabled us to grow in our cultural relevance. We have also undertaken a significant project to change our Certificate III and IV in Theology courses to become more user friendly and specifically target the ministry needs of the Indigenous churches in communities.

We have grown in our financial management to ensure that this year we achieved a balanced budget. This has not been without pain, and we will need to continue to monitor finances very closely each year to maintain this result.

Lastly, I believe we are continuing to grow in the Lord. The chapel services that begin each day are increasingly well attended and encourage staff and students alike. We are intentionally seeking to keep Christ at the centre of all we do at the College.

Nungalinya is a very special place. It is alive and well and as we look to the future it is exciting to see what the Lord will do next!

Dr Jude Long — PRINCIPAL
The College made a significant change to its governance arrangements in 2015. As part of the Federal Government funding requirements, the College was required to change its incorporation from an incorporated association under the Northern Territory Associations Act, and has now been registered as an Indigenous Corporation under the CATSI Act 2006 (Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander). The official name of the College is now Nungalinya College Indigenous Corporation ICN 8329.

This change involved the development of a new Rule Book (Constitution), discussions about the roles and responsibilities of Directors, and many other details throughout the year. However, we believe the new model will have a number of benefits as follows:

1. At least 51% of directors must be Indigenous ensuring there continues to be strong Indigenous involvement in the governance of the College.

2. An additional Indigenous Chairperson who is selected for their skills rather than just one of the church representatives.
3. Three specialist non-member Directors to provide advice to the Board in the areas of finance, law and education.

4. The possibility of the Heads of Churches participating as Directors on the Board if they choose, rather than being the official “members” of the College who only meet once a year at the AGM.

**Key Decisions of the Board for 2015**

- Appointment of Rev Rronang Garrawurra as acting Chair until the General Meeting in November

- Appointment of Mr Maratja Dhamarandji as the Chairperson for the next 2 years.

- To change the Certificate III and IV in Theology courses to the Certificate III and IV in Christian Ministry and Theology which are developed by the Health & Community Services Workforce Council in Queensland. These courses are used by a number of different colleges throughout Australia and can be customised to suit Indigenous students.

- To offer holiday accommodation when students are not at the College in order to generate more income for the College and fully utilize resources.
In 2015 we offered five courses of study:

- Foundation Studies (literacy and numeracy)
- Certificate II in Media and Discipleship
- Certificate II in Music
- Certificate III in Theology
- Certificate IV in Theology

Student numbers are continuing to increase, particularly as we add new courses. Sadly, not all these students actually complete their full 4 weeks of study, but this area is also improving.

We celebrated 5 graduation ceremonies at the end of the year (two for Certificate II in Media and Discipleship) as students finished the last intensive for their course. A total of 83 students graduated in 2015.
Certificate IV Theology Students

2015 was the first year for a long time in which we have been able to offer a Certificate IV in Theology course. Many students have been asking for it, and it was great to see the good response to the course. Students in this course have already completed their Certificate III in Theology, and many are church leaders, both ordained and lay.

They bring a lot of experience and confidence to their study and provide role models to the newer students. Their presence around the campus and in chapels created a stronger community, and really encouraged the other students. In particular the leading of Chapel was a great highlight.
We have been experimenting for the past couple of years with having Indigenous Assistant Teachers in our classes. Students with a gift for teaching are identified during the courses that we run or through church networks. When these teachers have finished their course, they are invited to come and use their learning as Assistant Teachers. These Assistant roles are tailored to the individual. Some may help in a class by quietly explaining things and supporting students in their learning. Others come to assist students but also have responsibility to teach certain concepts under supervision. Assistant teachers only come into the College for a week of preparation and two weeks of teaching once or twice a year, so their gifts are not lost to their communities and the wider church.

In 2015, we were able to extend this program so that we had an Assistant Teacher for each Certificate III in Theology class and also for the Certificate II in Media. So far there are 6 Indigenous Assistant teachers on the program. Three—Yurranydjil, Maratja and Wangarr—are supported by the Uniting Church Northern Synod and three—James, Marlene and Mandy—are supported by the Anglican connected Mission, CMS.

At the start of 2016, we held a Teachers Workshop including both the Indigenous Assistant Teachers and the Teachers. This was a very helpful time of two-way learning and prepared us all for teaching together throughout the year.
For the financial year ended 31 December 2015, the College reported a net profit of $29,009. This was a tremendous turnaround from the previous year’s deficit of $371,415. There were a number of factors that led to this excellent result.

Firstly, the College reviewed its procedures and made some difficult cost cutting decisions—for example to not replace the Receptionist who left mid year. There has been considerable pain in the process and staff are under increased pressure as a result, but salaries are one of the few areas it is possible to cut.

Secondly, the College achieved more students receiving full funding than had been budgeted for. This was the result of conservative budgeting, but also hard work to ensure more students returned for their full 4 weeks of intensives and the College therefore received the full funding for them.

Lastly, donations exceeded the budget and enabled the College to do some of the work on the property that was desperately needed.

This is the first time in several years the College has not had a deficit budget and reflects the Board’s commitment to ensure the financial viability of the College for the future.

* Audited financial statements are available on request.
One of the key decisions of the Board in 2015 was to change the theology courses the College was teaching. The old courses had been written long ago and no longer fitted well with the current accreditation system. They were proving to be very challenging to assess, and in particular, to keep accredited. While the new courses are not specifically written for Indigenous people, they provide a generic framework that the College has been able to customise.

This had meant a huge amount of work for the Certificate III and IV teachers over 2015 to design the courses and then write up each individual unit ready for teaching. However it has also been a great process of working collaboratively. The design process also involved consultation with students, church leaders and Board members. The focus of the Certificate III is on developing biblical literacy to provide a strong foundation with the Certificate IV then building on this to focus on leadership. Both courses are designed to help students engage with the real ministry issues they are facing in their communities.

The courses have now started and we have had very positive feedback from the students. There is still a lot of work ahead for the teachers, but it is great to find the change has indeed been a significant improvement.

The College now tweets on Twitter and has a YouTube channel which displays our Media students’ videos, and a photo album on ‘Flickr’.
Help us to continue **Empowering Indigenous Christians** through training and employment.

*Please join us and further our mission through your prayers and financial support.*

If you would like to receive our newsletter:
comms@nungalinya.edu.au

**Please send your tax deductible donation to:**

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Empowering Indigenous Christians