

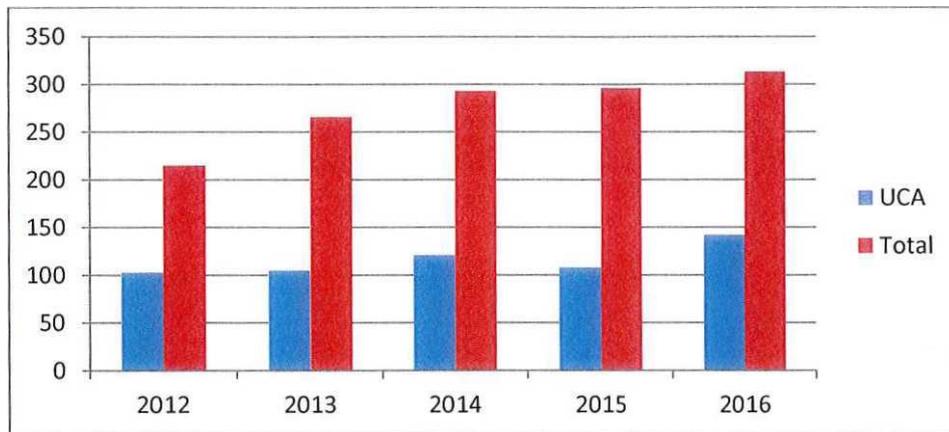
Introduction

Last year was one of our busiest years for a long time. We had over 300 students attend the College with 77 graduates across 5 courses.

1 Students

Our overall student numbers have continued to steadily increase. This has been very encouraging and reflects the hard work done by the Deans and the Admin team.

Annual Student Numbers Comparison 2012-2016



Last year was something of a peak in terms of numbers and we predict that student numbers for 2017 may be a little less than for last year. Applications reduced by 74 down to 501 from 575 in 2016. Uniting Church applications reduced by nearly 60 applicants. This is partly the result of a changeover of Dean. Felicity Amery finished as Dean in November and Tony Goodluck did not start until March. We are very grateful that Felicity continued to pick up many of the Dean's duties in the interim, but this no doubt did contribute to some of the reduction in numbers. Another factor is that many of our students have now graduated and completed the courses available to them at Nungalinya. We have cancelled our first year Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology class this year due to insufficient numbers. At the Foundation Studies level however, we still have many more applications than we have places available.

2. Courses

The College has 5 courses

Foundation Studies is a literacy and numeracy course based on the Bible. Most students do this course prior to further study in theology so they will be set up to succeed in their later studies.

Certificate II in Media and Discipleship

Now in its fifth year, this is a great course to teach the practical skills involved in making short films, while also reflecting what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Certificate II in Music

This is also a great practical course teaching skills in performing and recording music. The focus of the course is on Christian music and we are seeking to help students write and record Christian music in their first languages.

Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology.

This is a new course which in 2016 replaced the one we had used for many years. It provides a biblical foundation for students with subjects including an overview of the Bible, the story of Jesus, telling God's story, living in God's way, engaging with gospel and culture, and pastoral care. The course has a simpler structure to the previous course and both students and teachers are finding it is much easier to manage.

Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology

This is also a new course that in 2016 replaced the Certificate IV in Theology that first started in 2015. Unfortunately, there were significant issues with the reaccreditation of that course, so we swapped over to a suite of courses including both the Certificate III and IV. The Certificate IV focuses on leadership with a variety of subjects including leaders in the Bible, leading like Jesus, leading well (ethics) as well the beginning of developing an Indigenous Christian theology through subjects on reading the bible and theology. Because it is a higher level course we do not have a large number of students capable of doing this course and this year we decided not to start a very small group of students but to wait until next year when more students should be ready.

3. Uniting Church Staff

Our three full time Uniting Church Staff are Tony Goodluck, Helen Richmond and Lee Levett-Olson.

Felicity Amery finished as Dean at the College in November, although as I explained earlier continued to do the essentials until the new Dean arrived despite another full time position. I'd like to express my appreciation of the great contribution that Felicity made to the College as Dean, Foundation Studies teacher and coordinator, and in setting up the art space and many other jobs. We are grateful that she is continuing an involvement at the college with a small teaching load in the Media Studies course.

Tony Goodluck took over as Dean in March. We are very pleased to welcome him to the staff. He has a long association with the College and is building good relationships with students and churches. There are a lot of Uniting Church students, so it is a very busy job with much to learn, meaning that at this stage he is not doing any teaching.

Helen Richmond and Lee Levett-Olson continue to teach in our Certificate III and IV in Christian Ministry and Theology courses. Lee has reduced his load to .8 this year. Helen has taken on an additional role of mentoring and supporting our Indigenous Assistant and Trainee teachers

In addition to our full-time staff we also have three part-time Uniting Church Assistant Teachers released to work with us. Maratja Dhamarrandji is assisting in the Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology. Sandra Wangarr is continuing in her role as Assistant Teacher in the Certificate II in Media and Discipleship as well as studying the Certificate III in Christian Theology and Ministry. Yurranydjil Dhurrkay was timetabled to assist with our Certificate IV course, but unfortunately the course was cancelled this year, but it is possible she may assist elsewhere later in the year.

A new addition, Justine Gawinygawiny Gaykamangu has been appointed in a .6 capacity as a Trainee Teacher. This means that in addition to assisting with classes like the Assistant Teachers, she has started study on a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. While this may take several years, at the end of the course she will then be qualified to co-teach, and hopefully someday teach independently. The Anglican Church have also funded a Trainee Teacher - Mandy Manggurra. They are supported in their roles by Helen Richmond.

4. Property issues

We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful 10 acre site close to Casuarina and the airport. Most people who visit the campus remark on what a lovely and peaceful place it is. However, many of our buildings are now getting old. We have been able to completely renovate our student hostel with the assistance of volunteers from churches down south and it now has a new lease of life. Unfortunately, one of the limiting factors for the College is

that we struggle to fit the students in! We are presently developing plans for the future to assess the really old buildings and determine which need replacing, and to decide what we will need for the future.

Conclusion

Each year at Nungalinga College we see the wonderful things God is doing in students' lives and are very encouraged to see people being strengthened in faith, growing in confidence, learning new skills, and enjoying meeting other Indigenous Christians from different parts of Australia. There are many challenges, but we trust that as we seek to keep Christ as the centre of all we do at the College, He is more than able to bring about His plans for the future.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jude Long', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Jude Long
Principal