



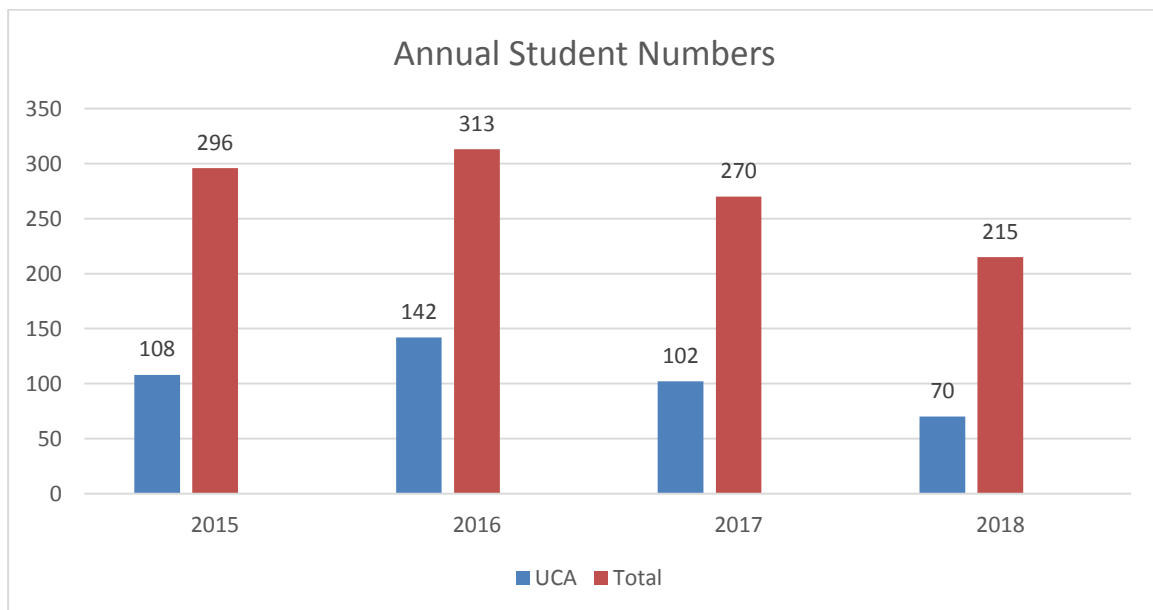
### Nungalinya College Principal's Report to UCA Synod October 2019

#### Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I present my first report to Synod as the principal of Nungalinya College. As this report covers the happenings of the College in 2018 (while I was not actually the principal), I will follow the structure of previous reports, indicating brief information where relevant to 2019.

#### 1. Students

Applications were very strong, the highest total on record (635, 245 UCA). However, actual student numbers attending were down on previous years (215 total, 70 UCA).



Breaking down the UCA statistics:

Courses	Applications	Attendees
Foundation Studies	181	37
Music	13	5
Media	13	8
Certificate III Theology	20	12
Certificate IV Theology	18	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>70</b>

*In 2019*

- *Attendances have been more consistent, 216 students have attended College for 4 weeks by the end of Term 3. We expect the 2019 total to be over 240.*
- *UCA applications decreased overall; 189 total, but with an increase (57) in the theological streams of Certificate III and IV and the new Diploma of Translating.*

## 2. Courses

The College ran seven courses:

**Foundation Studies** are literacy and numeracy courses based on the Bible. Strictly speaking, there are three courses involved; a preliminary, advanced and a Certificate II course, which was new in 2018. Most students complete at least one of these courses prior to further study in theology.

### **Certificate II in Media and Discipleship**

This course teaches the practical skills involved in making short films, while also reflecting on what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Most students record personal testimonies/life-journeys, which are available on our youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAmSBobZPXrsRD0bc-t45g>

### **Certificate II in Music**

This is also a 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 course 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.

### **Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology**

Our highest theological course 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.

Both Certificate III and IV Ministry and Theology courses are now taught over **three years** to enable deeper reflection and time to complete assessments.

*In 2019*

- *The Diploma of Translating course began. Coordinate contribute \$25,000 per annum. 12 UCA students applied.*
- *Funding for both the Music and Media courses was discontinued. Nevertheless, the Board decided to maintain the Media course on faith, incorporating elements of the Music course within it. New funding was secured, but only for 2019.*

## 3. UCA Staff

Uniting Church staff in 2018 were Lee Levett-Olson (Cert III / IV teacher 4 days a week), Tony Goodluck (Dean), Yurranydjil Dhurrkay (seconded Assistant Teacher) Sandra Wängarr (Volunteer Assistant Teacher Media Studies) and Justine Gawinygawiny Gaykamaṅu (Trainee Teacher in Foundation Studies). Amos Leanna also joined Nungalinya half way through the year.

*In 2019*

- *Rev Michelle Cook began her placement, teaching in the Cert III/IV courses.*
- *Justine returned to her home community at Raminginiṅ.*
- *Amos was 50% supported through UCA.*
- *All Indigenous teachers have begun a formal 'skill-set' qualification to enable them to teach under supervision in an RTO environment.*

#### **4. Property**

Many people who visit Nungalinya remark on what a lovely and peaceful place it is. However, many of our buildings are now getting old, built with asbestos sheeting. In 2018, unit 3 was demolished and replaced by a new 8 bed-capacity unit; 'Flametree'.

*In 2019:*

- *After feedback and consultation, it is envisaged that another unit will be built. The sale of a property in Wellington Pde will pay for this, alongside donations.*

#### **5. Conclusion**

I thank God for Nungalinya College and for the opportunity to take on a role with the clear support of partner churches and organisations. The year 2018 was one of further consolidation of new theology courses and building upgrades. The 'Schools Program' also made a start in terms of offering cross-cultural Christian experiences for school-based visitors. 2019 is a new year with some new visions; the Diploma of Translating course began, we hosted the Nungalinya Conference 'Multiplying the Multitudes' to celebrate Christian Indigenous Language ministries and we received funding to incorporate First Languages into our future courses. God is good!

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now (Philippians 1:3-4).*

Yours in Christ,



**Ben van Gelderen**  
**Principal**