

Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech Attestation Statement 2023

Charles Darwin University (CDU) is committed to and supports the exercise of academic freedom and freedom of speech as set out in this statement and the [CDU Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech Policy](#) (Policy).

Academic freedom and freedom of speech is a defining value of CDU and should not be unnecessarily burdened by restrictions other than those imposed by law and set out in the principles of *the Model Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom in Australian Higher Education Providers* (model code).

The Policy is based on the model code and sets out the principles upon which CDU staff members and students enjoy freedom of speech on CDU land or in connection with a CDU activity, subject to Reasonable Free Speech Restrictions as set out in CDU's governance documents.

CDU's Values, as set out in the CDU Strategic Plan 2021-2026 affirm the fundamental nature of Openness:

We communicate and listen openly and frankly in a way that is honest and respectful, recognising our limitations and embracing diverse perspectives. We share information with candour and empower our people with knowledge.

CDU's support can be demonstrated as follows:

- An Academic Freedom provision maintained and enhanced in the current Enterprise Agreement.
- Discussions with the Senior Executive Team, including where academic freedom relates to third party or foreign arrangements.

Issues of concern that have come to the attention of the University Council regarding freedom of speech and academic freedom.

No issues, concerns or disputes have been raised over the course of 2023. The clause on academic freedom in the Enterprise Agreement, which was finalised in 2023, was the subject of several discussions during Enterprise Bargaining.