Emeritus Professor Helen Garnett PSM:

Inaugural Vice-Chancellor, Charles Darwin University, 2003-2008

When Charles Darwin University (CDU) was formed in 2003, Helen Garnett was selected to be the inaugural Vice-Chancellor. It was a period of change.

As the foundation Vice-Chancellor, Helen Garnett was responsible for merging four institutions (Northern Territory University, Centralian College, Menzies School of Health Research and Katherine Rural College) to form a new entity - CDU. She had to make some very tough decisions for the long term benefit of CDU, but was also lauded for her commitment to Indigenous education.

Under Helen Garnett’s leadership CDU became the fastest growing university in Australia within just three years. At the same time, the University's reputation for research, community development and indigenous participation reached new highs.

Helen Garnett was made an Emeritus Professor of Charles Darwin University in 2009.