

New online law course at CDU

Charles Darwin University (formerly the Northern Territory University) has officially launched its external, fully interactive online Bachelor of Laws degree. The first of its kind in Australia, this new course format allows for more flexible delivery and recognises the needs of students who live in remote locations or are juggling study around work or family commitments.

CDU law lecturer Ken Parish has been the driving force behind the degree becoming interactive.

"We know there are a couple of other universities that have external online law

degrees but this is the first really interactive degree in Australia where the students get to experience aspects of the course like student and lecturer discussions and debates," Mr Parish said.

"We thought that there was a real need for a degree that wasn't just external, where students completed their studies pretty much alone, but a degree that gave the students the experience of live debate, conversation, discussion about the course, where students can ask a question and get an answer straight away from a voice and not just a text response."

The unique aspect of the degree is in the audio technology. Tutorials are scheduled for the external students; they log in to the tutorial on their computers and they can hear the lecturer present the subject in a 'chatroom' environment.

Students can also follow what the lecturer is talking about on screen and can interject with questions and comments at anytime by signalling the lecturer and other students on their computers. They can also hold a text



Ken Parish showing NT Minister for Education, the Hon Syd Stirling, the features on the new online course.

conversation on screen while the lecture is taking place.

The course started operating in the middle of this year and has already attracted students from Perth, the Kimberley and other remote parts of Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Sydney, Brisbane, and even a student from Dunedin in New Zealand.^①

Objectionable questions cont...

alive.

The examples of questions that may be objectionable in form or content are innumerable. Many more examples will be found in the leading texts on evidence.

(Endnotes)

¹ *Cross on Evidence* (Butterworths Looseleaf edition at para 17580 et seq.)

² Evidence Act s 14.

³ WAN Wells: *Evidence and Advocacy* (Butterworths 1988)^①

Obituary: Bill Herd

On Thursday 9 October, Williamson Mitchell Herd sadly passed away.

Bill Herd graduated from the University of Queensland with a B. Com. and LL.B(Hons) in 1975. He was admitted to practise as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1976.

There followed a period of practice and part-time teaching in law at the University of Queensland and the, then, Queensland Institute of Technology. He took up a full-time academic appointment in the Faculty of Law at the University of Queensland in 1977.

He moved to the University College of the Northern Territory in 1988 with the establishment of the School of Law and was admitted to the Supreme Court of the NT. He completed his LL.M(Qld) in 1989.

Most recently, Bill held the position of Senior Lecturer in Law in the Faculty of Law of the Northern Territory University. His teaching interests were Equity, Trusts, Succession, Military Law, Legal Process and Legal Research and Writing.

Bill was extremely popular with students. He was a brilliant lecturer and had a quick wit. His lectures were both informative and entertaining. In 1992, he won the inaugural Northern Territory University Excellence in Teaching award.

Bill was a well-known and valued member of the Northern Territory legal profession. He was an institution in Law at NTU, a Lecturer extraordinaire and a much-loved mentor to many in the Territory legal profession. He will be greatly missed and always remembered.^①

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