

Editors' Preface

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In July 2013, JCU hosted an international conference, “Sustainable International Leadership in Indigenous Research Conference: Pathways, Potential and Practice”. The conference brought together scholars, academics, higher degree research students, research organisations, service providers and Indigenous community members to explore and critique current and emergent trends in research involving Indigenous people. The conference focused on leadership across four main themes of global importance for Indigenous peoples. These themes included:

Pathways:	Leadership for the Future
Potential:	Research without Borders
Practice:	Reclaiming the Research Agenda
Sustainability:	Building Sustainable Communities

The conference presentations showcased research collaborations and partnerships between researchers and Indigenous community members, demonstrating two way capacity building and knowledge exchange in diverse settings and contexts. Examples of community driven and controlled research were highlighted as being critical to achieving sustainable outcomes for these communities beyond the life of the research project. Discussions from the conference underscored the need to continue the dialogue on what constitutes sustainable outcomes in Indigenous research, and what leadership is required to achieve the long term benefits and improved indicators of empowerment and well-being in Indigenous communities.

The conference provided an important opportunity to establish and reinforce links between all stakeholders and to showcase leadership, innovation and critical thinking in global Indigenous research for both now and the future. Formal feedback on the conference program demonstrates how the forum broadened understanding, encouraged debate and stimulated action on research that produces sustainable benefit and impact for Indigenous people.
