



MEDIA RELEASE

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University opportunities in Geraldton continue to grow with extension of CQUniversity partnership.

Geraldton Universities Centre and CQUniversity Australia have signed an extension of their Service Level Agreement to continue to grow university opportunities in Geraldton and the wider Mid West.

The re-signing of the agreement comes after an extremely successful first five years of arrangements between CQUniversity and GUC. During this time there has been a significant increase in student numbers and programs offered at GUC. Growing from just eight part-time business students in July 2011, almost 200 students are now enrolled in CQUniversity programs in Accounting, Business, Education, Psychology, Social Work and Bridging.

"The relationship is going from strength to strength," GUC Chair Steve Douglas said. "CQUniversity have become GUC's major partner in the region which has opened up so many more study options and opportunities for regional WA students. With such a strong relationship, we continue to explore what other courses we could offer in the mixed mode delivery and other communities that, in partnership with CQUniversity, we can extend our services to."

"CQUniversity Australia is Australia's largest regional university. As a university that understands regional Australia, it is an ideal fit for GUC. The relationship continues to grow and prosper, producing great results for Geraldton and Mid West students and productive outcomes for the communities in which they live."

GUC Director Natalie Nelmes said the mixed mode of delivery that GUC offers with its University partners sees students enroll in programs as external students – attending lectures online – in addition to being supported academically, pastorally and administratively at its beautiful campus facility in Geraldton.

"Students are supported by local academically qualified and experienced professionals who tutor the students in a campus class environment," Ms Nelmes said.

"To date 20 students at GUC have completed their studies and graduated in CQUniversity programs and this number is set to grow significantly. Not only does the partnership help students once they are in a university program, it also helps in getting students into programs in the first place. CQUniversity's Bridging course, STEPS, has allowed 155 GUC students to gain the necessary skills to obtain places in university programs to further their higher education.

"This extension of the relationship between GUC and CQUniversity emphasizes the strength of the commitment to the region and higher education by both parties."

Ends For further information please contact the GUC on 9920 4400

Photo Caption: CQUniversity Vice Chancellor Professor Scott Bowman and GUC Chair Steve Douglas sign the Agreement as Carol Burnett and Natalie Nelmes look on.