As of 12 PM EST, 20 March 2006

As you may be aware from news reports over the weekend, a category 5 cyclone (hurricane) made landfall near the coastal town of Innisfail in Northern Queensland on March 20, 2006. Australian authorities issued an evacuation order for those coastal towns in Northern Queensland directly in the path of the storm and cancelled all flights into Cairns and Townsville.

Our students, studying at James Cook University were not asked to evacuate their housing in Cairns and Townsville, as they were not in the direct path of the storm. However, as a precaution, classes were cancelled for Monday, March 20 at both the Cairns and Townsville campuses. Classes will resume as regularly scheduled at Townsville on Tuesday, March 21. The Cairns Campus will remain closed on Tuesday, March 21, as they are experiencing some local power outages. Students studying in the Brisbane and Gold Coast areas experienced some minor effects of the storm, but remained unharmed.

Arcadia University remains in contact with officials at James Cook University and with our resident staff in Australia who are monitoring these events very closely. We will continue to update you as we learn more about this storm and its effects. Please feel free to contact our staff with any further questions or concerns.

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