Examples of Discovery Indigenous projects commencing in 2014

Australian universities will receive more than $4.8 million through the Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous scheme for 10 new research projects commencing in 2014.

Some examples of the projects are provided below.

To view the summaries of all successful projects, visit the [ARC announcements page](#).

**The University of New South Wales**

*Lead Chief Investigator:* Dr Jason Sharples (IN140100011)

*Summary:* This project aims to improve understanding of the physical processes that cause eruptive bushfire behaviour, otherwise known as fire blow-up. Eruptive fire behaviour, characterised by rapid and unexpected escalation in fire intensity and rate of spread, is a global phenomenon that poses a major threat to fire-fighter safety and can seriously compromise bushfire suppression efforts. This project will address the role that terrain geometry plays in the incidence of fire eruption, through consideration of its effect on the attachment of flames to a surface. Expected outcomes include a dynamic fire spread modelling framework and the provision of better advice to bushfire authorities concerning fire blow-up.

*ARC funding:* $370 000 over three years

**The University of Sydney**

*Lead Chief Investigator:* Dr John Evans (IN140100048)

*Summary:* Despite significant social disadvantage and alarming underachievement in educational outcomes, Indigenous Australians achieve remarkable success across a range of high profile sports. Indigenous Australians’ achievement in sport is often explained as a result of inherited racial characteristics but, when seen as the result of a process of learning, it demands inquiry into how this learning occurs and what socio-cultural factors facilitate this. This project will identify the socio-cultural and pedagogical factors that encourage and enhance achieving excellence at the highest levels of sport as a process of learning.

*ARC funding:* $327 033 over three years

**The University of Queensland**

*Lead Chief Investigator and Discovery Indigenous Award recipient:* Ms Carroll Go-Sam (IN140100033)

*Summary:* This project aims to analyse, quantify and improve our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing needs. It will develop an innovative regional approach to needs assessment and housing procurement that considers cultural protocols, access to services, sustainable design and regional governance. By integrating qualitative and quantitative data, and comparing case studies from remote, rural and urban regions, this project will identify the most significant factors in different contexts and tailor solutions to optimise Indigenous housing outcomes. Expected outcomes include improved housing management, housing design, health and well-being of Indigenous communities and a reduction in crowding and homelessness.

*ARC funding:* $530 000 over three years