THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP
Minister for Education
Leader of the House

MEDIA RELEASE

Research dollars awarded in NSW to uncover the causes of intense bushfires

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Research to understand the causes of eruptive bushfires and to reduce the misdiagnosis of disease will commence thanks to funding of over $152 million for investment in New South Wales research projects through the Australian Government.

Announcing funding for 358 New South Wales projects, Minister for Education Hon Christopher Pyne MP said that investing in research was absolutely critical for the development of new ideas, for progress of our society and a better life for all Australians.

“This Government is providing a total of $522 million towards promising research to occur across Australia’s research institutions through the Australian Research Council (ARC),” Mr Pyne said.

Dr Jason Sharples at the University of New South Wales will receive a $370 000 grant to better understand the physical processes that cause eruptive bushfires, by analysing the role that the shape of the surrounding terrain plays in the behaviour of a bushfire.

“We have all witnessed the terrible bushfires in New South Wales, if we research the causes we may discover ways to minimise the intensity and spread of these fires in the future,” Mr Pyne said.

Professor Wendy Rogers at Macquarie University will use an $820 156 Future Fellowship grant to investigate and refine our understanding of what is a disease. This aims to prevent incidences of harm resulting from incorrect disease diagnosis.

And University of Sydney Dr John Evans will use a Discovery Indigenous grant of $327 033 to identify the socio-cultural and educational factors that encourage and enhance Indigenous Australians to achieve excellence at the highest levels of sport.

“This overall $152 million investment is great news for the New South Wales because it highlights the outstanding research occurring in the state.”

The 358 research projects were announced as part of the ARC’s 2013 Future Fellowships and 2014 Major Grants funding outcomes announcements.

To view summaries of all funded projects visit the [ARC media announcement kit](#).

For more information on the ARC and its funding schemes, visit [www.arc.gov.au](http://www.arc.gov.au).

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