

# Summary of Discovery Projects Applications for Funding to Commence in 2006

## New South Wales

### Australian Catholic University

**DP0662942** Prof P Allen; Dr WE Mayer; Dr BJ Neil

**Approved Project Title** **Poverty and Welfare in Late Antiquity**

**2006 :** \$110,000

**2007 :** \$105,000

**2008 :** \$105,000

**Primary RFCD** 4402 RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

**Administering Institution** Australian Catholic University

#### Project Summary

Poverty and the provision of welfare are key concerns in Australia today. Many of the problems we face - refugee influxes, inflated housing costs, increased competition between charities for limited resources - are paralleled in late antiquity. This is a critical time in history that has unique things to say to Australian society today. A focussed study of this turning-point in history provides a novel perspective from which to assess the implications of current Australian trends, in which welfare is increasingly being devolved upon non-government organisations. It also enlarges the foundation for a dialogue on these issues, assisting in creating better solutions at both a government and non-government level.

**DP0663985** A/Prof SL Swain; A/Prof ML Hillel

**Approved Project Title** **Child, Nation, Race and Empire: a critical analysis of child rescue narratives in Britain, Australia and Canada 1850-1915**

**2006 :** \$60,594

**2007 :** \$77,608

**2008 :** \$58,343

**Primary RFCD** 4301 HISTORICAL STUDIES

**Administering Institution** Australian Catholic University

#### Project Summary

The aftermath of past child welfare practices has generated pain and anger across Australia. Through an analysis of the literature which informed such practices the project will strengthen Australia's social fabric by providing a much-needed historical context for the individuals, voluntary and government organizations seeking to understand how actions cast as benevolent could cause such harm. Such an understanding will also be cautionary for those engaged in the promotion of intercountry aid and adoption programs, which make similarly emotional appeals thus enhancing Australia's capacity to interpret and engage with its regional and global environment.