

Summary of Discovery Projects Applications for Funding to Commence in 2006

South Australia

The Flinders University of South Australia

DP0664408 Prof CM Bull; A/Prof HI McCallum; Dr RI Menz; Prof PJ Hudson; Prof C Daugherty

Approved Project Title **Ecological dynamics of parasite infections in reptiles**

2006 : \$80,000

2007 : \$70,000

2008 : \$70,000

Primary RFCD 2707 ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

Australian ecosystems are threatened by new epidemics of diseases and parasites, some local, others from overseas. Examples include the facial tumours of Tasmanian devils and the fungus that threatens many native frog species. To manage these epidemics effectively, we must understand how they spread through animal populations. With better knowledge of how diseases of wildlife spread, we can develop more effective control of those diseases thereby protecting wildlife species, animal populations and, ultimately, Australian ecology. This project will help to protect our fauna from invasive diseases and contribute to sustaining the biodiversity of the country.

DP0664158 Prof J Condon; Prof G Andrews; Prof MA Luszcz; Dr M Clark; Dr G Ochiltree

Approved Project Title **A prospective study of the transition to grandparenthood: psychosocial adjustment, well-being and productive ageing**

2006 : \$90,000

2007 : \$70,000

2008 : \$80,000

Primary RFCD 3212 PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

Given the increasingly common childcare role that grandparents are required to play in Australian society, and the increasing demands of grandparenting, potential benefits arising from this study adhere to the requirements of the National Research Priority Area "Promoting and Maintaining Good Health." They include: identifying the characteristics of the group of grandparents for whom the change of role and lifestyle produces negative effects; providing increased awareness in health professionals and the lay community about this subgroup, enabling appropriate early identification and intervention; supplying evidence-based data to inform strategies to reduce stress in the grandparents and improve the quality of childcare they provide.

DP0664939 Prof NT Feather

Approved Project Title **Deservingness and emotions**

2006 : \$75,000

2007 : \$65,000

2008 : \$75,000

Primary RFCD 3801 PSYCHOLOGY

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

The project will address a key neglected area in the psychology of emotion, namely on how different emotions relate to perceptions that outcomes such as success or failure are deserved or undeserved. It will add to leadership on this issue and contribute to Australia's worldwide reputation for research on social justice and deservingness. The project will have implications for applied areas of national significance that include health-related issues and issues concerned with national safety, given the fact that emotions like sympathy can determine helping behaviour, and emotions like resentment can trigger revenge and conflict.

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DP0665563 Dr V Haskins

Approved Project Title **Domestic Subversions: maternalism and cross-cultural histories**

2006 : \$40,000

2007 : \$35,000

2008 : \$25,000

Primary RFCD 4301 HISTORICAL STUDIES

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

This project will assist in the processes of reconciliation, by fostering a sense of a shared history, and increasing public awareness of the complexity of race relations histories in Australia. It will redress a significant gap in Australian knowledge and literature. Very little is known about the history of Aboriginal domestic workers and their relationships with their white employers in Australia, despite growing awareness of the significance of domestic service in Aboriginal child removal policies. The project will also assist in establishing Australian historical scholarship at the forefront of leading international research initiatives in gender, race and colonialism studies.

DP0664435 Dr EB Kemps; Prof M Tiggemann

Approved Project Title **'Images of desire': An experimental cognitive approach to understanding and reducing food cravings**

2006 : \$70,000

2007 : \$50,000

2008 : \$60,000

Primary RFCD 3801 PSYCHOLOGY

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

Food cravings are an important precursor to binge eating, a risk factor for both obesity and bulimia nervosa. Like many other Western countries, Australia has recently seen an alarming rise in these disorders. This project aims to investigate the imagery basis of food craving and develop effective techniques for its reduction. It has clear potential benefit for Australian national health and well-being, consistent with National Research Priority No. 2, "Promoting and Maintaining Good Health." The research will clearly contribute to the international profile of Australian social science and provide valuable research training for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

DP0666420 Dr JG Mitchell; Dr L Seuront

Approved Project Title **Physical and Ecological Structure at the Base of Ocean Food Webs**

2006 : \$85,000

2007 : \$50,000

2008 : \$50,000

Primary RFCD 2604 OCEANOGRAPHY

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

The coastal ocean is a crucial resource to Australia. In founding a research area on coastal food web function we provide international scientific leadership, train scientists in a cutting edge area, and lay the foundation for improved management of fisheries, aquaculture and species invasions. This work boosts Australia's participation in the International Polar Year, and knowledge about Antarctic Territorial waters. Infrastructure benefit comes from the French government paying for an outstanding French scientist to come to Australia 6 months/yr for 5 yrs. This grant acts as the base for larger projects that import EU and American funds.

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DP0666174 Prof AW Parkin

Approved Project Title **Regulatory Federalism and Public Policy: The Transformation of Australian Intergovernmental Relations**

2006 : \$50,088

2007 : \$100,000

2008 : \$113,463

2009 : \$66,144

Primary RFCD 3601 POLITICAL SCIENCE

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

Intergovernmental relations impinge upon most aspects of Australia's public sector, from public finance to policy development, from economic investment to public service delivery. They shape the capacity of government to produce good policies and services- from childcare to aged care, from schools to power stations, from business regulation to environmental management, from workplace safety to highway maintenance. A better understanding of the changing federal system is essential for improving the benefits - better policies, more efficient programs and more responsive decisions - that Australians expect from their governments.

DP0666360 Dr FB Regan

Approved Project Title **Safeguarding human rights in China: A study of the role of legal aid policy**

2006 : \$50,000

2007 : \$50,000

2008 : \$40,000

Primary RFCD 3903 JUSTICE AND LEGAL STUDIES

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

While China is a well-known Australia n trading partner its efforts to safeguard human rights are not well known. China's legal aid, the focus of this study, promotes human rights in China by assisting women, children, the elderly and disabled with legal advice and education, and representation in court cases. This project describes the innovative Chinese policy, assesses its role in promoting human rights, and proposes practical reforms to further improve legal aid. By improving human rights and the legal system it will also promote the stable conditions in China needed for Sino/Australian trade.

DP0663271 A/Prof KJ Reynolds; A/Prof NL Fazzalari; Dr MJ Bottema; Prof TC Hearn; Dr TM Cleek

Approved Project Title **Three-dimensional Simulation of Trabecular Bone Remodelling**

2006 : \$110,000

2007 : \$80,000

2008 : \$80,000

Primary RFCD 3210 CLINICAL SCIENCES

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

Nearly 2 million Australians currently suffer from osteoporosis. Statistics indicate that 25% of Australian women and 17% of men will develop an osteoporotic fracture. The cost of osteoporosis is \$7.4 billion per annum; the numbers of affected individuals and costs are expected to continue increasing. Clearly, improvements to osteoporosis diagnosis, fracture risk assessment, and effective treatments are still urgently needed. The proposed project aims to create a tool for understanding the mechanisms of bone loss and predicting the effects of osteoporosis therapies. It represents a solid contribution to the knowledge base necessary for advancing osteoporosis research and ultimately reducing the incidence of osteoporotic fracture.

Summary of Discovery Projects Applications for Funding to Commence in 2006

DP0665198 Prof SL Roach Anleu; Prof K Mack

Approved Project Title **The Australian Judiciary: A National Socio-Legal Analysis**

2006 : \$195,000

2007 : \$150,000

2008 : \$160,000

Primary RFCD 3903 JUSTICE AND LEGAL STUDIES

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

Courts and judges constitute a key social and legal institution, with a distinctive obligation to maintain the rule of law. The knowledge produced by this research will benefit the judiciary, the courts, government and the public they serve. Research findings will be used by courts and government to shape policy in recruitment, selection and professional development. It will assist individual judicial officers to manage their workloads and provide valuable information for courts in managing independent professionals. This research will improve public and scholarly understanding of Australia's courts and will help sustain an institution essential for safeguarding Australia.

DP0665782 A/Prof SB Schech; A/Prof J Haggis

Approved Project Title **From Stranger to Citizen: Migration, Modernisation and Racialisation in the Making of the New Australian**

2006 : \$30,000

2007 : \$30,000

Primary RFCD 3701 SOCIOLOGY

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

The project addresses an important question: How can Australians continue to reap the benefits of cultural diversity while building a strong sense of national cohesion with which to engage productively with the rest of the world? Refugees from developing countries appear to pose a particular challenge to integration into Australian society. A close examination of the contact zone where newcomers interact with service providers will result in a better understanding of citizen-making processes and facilitate the improvement of policies and their implementation to facilitate faster and deeper integration of migrants and refugees from developing countries into Australian society.

DP0664891 A/Prof MP Schwarz; Dr SJ Cooper

Approved Project Title **Origins of invertebrate fauna in Australia since the Cretaceous: a molecular approach using bees as a model taxon**

2006 : \$130,000

2007 : \$97,000

2008 : \$70,000

Primary RFCD 2707 ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

Australia's unique biota is vital for ecological, recreational, and economic reasons, and is a major resource that we need to understand and manage. This project is aimed at understanding the genesis of this biota, and will help us anticipate what lies ahead, in terms of the impact of exotic species and climate change. Benefits also include developing world class scientific profiles with consequent flow-on effects, including international collaboration, and enhanced teaching and awareness of native biota. The project will maintain our already strong track record for training a large number of postgraduate and honours students in benchmark evolutionary research techniques.

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DP0664903 A/Prof MP Schwarz

Approved Project Title **Origin of social parasites via sympatric speciation: testing the theory using allodapine bees as a model system**

2006 : \$95,000

2007 : \$65,000

2008 : \$20,000

Primary RFCD 2707 ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

This project addresses a contentious evolutionary conjecture regarding the origin of some species and will help maintain Australia's position in the forefront of evolutionary biology and behavioural ecology. Benefits derive from developing and maintaining world class research excellence, with consequences for scientific competitiveness and training the next generation of young researchers in cutting-edge techniques. The project fosters international collaboration, important for maintaining links with the broader scientific community and fostering breadth in postgraduate training. The project will also train 3 PhD students and 1-2 honours students per year, with strong expertise in evolutionary, genetic and ecological research techniques.

DP0664763 Prof SM Sheridan

Approved Project Title **Lost Generation: Women Writers and Postwar Modernity**

2006 : \$25,733

2007 : \$28,790

2008 : \$30,039

Primary RFCD 4202 LITERATURE STUDIES

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

This project will restore a 'lost generation' of Australian women writers to, and reconfigure the meanings of, literary culture in the post-World War 2 years. 1945-65 is a key period of Australian cultural development that is under-researched but over-laden with stereotypes, which still frame and restrict our understanding of it. A fuller and more complex picture of Australian modernity and modernism will be gained by placing women centrally in the picture, and by placing the Australian case within the international field. Such an enhanced understanding of the past is essential for us to have a more productive and harmonious future, and to play a significant role internationally.

DP0664681 Dr RL Waters; Dr L Seuront

Approved Project Title **Three-dimensional mapping and bio-physical coupling in the plankton microenvironment**

2006 : \$140,000

2007 : \$85,000

2008 : \$71,000

Primary RFCD 2604 OCEANOGRAPHY

Administering Institution The Flinders University of South Australia

Project Summary

The fate of carbon in the marine environment, and potential modification of global climate, is driven by organisms ranging in size from 0.1 to 100 μm interacting at mm to cm scales. This research will provide the first high-resolution 3D measurements of distributions, diversity and dynamics of these key organisms. Australia provides the unique opportunity to study these microscale patterns and processes in archetypical examples of environments representative of the world's most significant marine ecosystems. These results will maintain Australia at the cutting-edge of marine environmental science, and provide the first application of novel sampling, analysis and modelling techniques to environments of the Australian economic exclusion zone.