

New South Wales

Charles Sturt University

DP0880847 A/Prof GJ Ash; Dr JR Condon; Dr MK Conyers

Approved Project Title **Fingerprinting the soil microbial metagenome**

2008 : \$ 60,000

2009 : \$ 50,000

2010 : \$ 50,000

Primary RFCD 3001 SOIL AND WATER SCIENCES

Administering Organisation Charles Sturt University

Project Summary

The understanding of the impact of current farming systems on soil biology is in its infancy. Technology previously used to examine soil biology only investigates a very small percentage of all soil organisms. We will use an innovative new technology (DART) to rapidly gain an overview of all soil microbial biodiversity. We will then evaluate the impact of agricultural practices on that biodiversity, firstly based on our long term trial site exhibiting common farming practices, and then by a broader regional survey. Our longer term goal is to find microbiological indicators of healthy soil through a vastly improved ability to determine a wide range of beneficial and disease organisms to identify sustainable farming practices.

DP0881729 Dr LJ Harrison; Ms F Press; Prof J Sumsion; Prof JM Bowes; Ms M Fenech

Approved Project Title **A multi-modal investigation of current and proposed structures and processes determining and sustaining quality in Australian centre-based child care**

2008 : \$ 98,000

2009 : \$ 79,648

2010 : \$ 79,548

Primary RFCD 3303 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS

APD Ms M Fenech

Administering Organisation Charles Sturt University

Project Summary

Access to good quality government-regulated child care is a national policy direction, underpinned by Australia's quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms, and based on evidence that high quality care positively affects children's developmental wellbeing. Of concern is that care of poorer quality is linked with adverse outcomes, especially for more vulnerable children. The effective provision of high quality care requires a thorough understanding of the structures and processes that contribute to and sustain quality outcomes. The results of this study will provide invaluable information to guide the decisions of policy makers and service providers in determining new directions in child care quality assurance.

DP0879987 Prof J Reid; Dr SJ White; Prof WC Green; A/Prof MC Cooper; Dr G Lock; Ms W Hastings

Approved Project Title **Renewing Rural Teacher Education: Sustaining Schooling for Sustainable Futures**

2008 : \$ 90,000

2009 : \$ 75,000

2010 : \$ 80,000

Primary RFCD 3303 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS

Administering Organisation Charles Sturt University

Project Summary

We face a national crisis in attracting and retaining teachers and other professionals to rural areas. There is a projection of teacher shortfall which will affect all schools with significant numbers of the current aging teacher workforce expected to retire in the next five years. This shortfall will be most felt in rural schools and communities, as traditionally these are the schools identified as harder to staff. Students in rural, regional and remote Australia have the right to an equitable and quality education, and it is an imperative for all education stakeholders to ensure that they have access to it.