

Summary of Discovery Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2010

Western Australia

Murdoch University

DP1095791 Prof B Barber; Prof J Eccles

Approved Project Title **Protect, prepare and engage: Does extracurricular activity participation offer sustained benefits for youth?**

2010 : \$ 120,000

2011 : \$ 120,000

2012 : \$ 100,000

Primary RFCD 3801 PSYCHOLOGY

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

Organized extracurricular activities such as sport and music have the potential to promote healthy development and to reduce the levels of risk behaviours in teenagers. However, current research evidence, often based on middle-class youth in the US, is inadequate for making policy recommendations for improvement to the after-school lives of Australian youth. This study will offer insight into the long-term benefits of making a diverse selection of organised activities available to Australian teenagers, and will improve our understanding of which aspects of participation are most likely to enhance their social and educational opportunities.

DP1092543 Dr M Minakshi

Approved Project Title **Mapping new cathode materials for aqueous rechargeable batteries: The mechanism of intercalation of lithium in aqueous solutions**

2010 : \$ 80,000

2011 : \$ 65,000

2012 : \$ 65,000

2013 : \$ 65,000

Primary RFCD 2501 PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY (INCL. STRUCTURAL)

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

This technology could power electric vehicles of the future. With the aid of using advanced oxide and phosphate materials for an aqueous battery, the project will establish a widespread use of green energy for national benefit. This will help us to reduce the current emission observed in transport and energy conversion. The project will facilitate an understanding the electrochemical energy storage technology. The challenging and significant results from this project will contribute to the energy industries to build non-pollutant high energy storage equipments and productivity of Australia's research and development.

DP1093284 Prof VC Mishra; A/Prof D Bahri

Approved Project Title **Rushdie Annotated: Definitive explanations of all obscure references in the Salman Rushdie corpus and extended critical commentaries on the author**

2010 : \$ 85,832

2011 : \$ 80,182

2012 : \$ 85,832

2013 : \$ 85,182

2014 : \$ 80,182

Primary RFCD 4202 LITERATURE STUDIES

APF Prof VC Mishra

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

In an Australia where the literary work of art now attends to issues which are multicultural, this reference text on Rushdie would show how crucial the creative use of language is in the formation of cultural identity. As a key spokesperson for liberal values, Rushdie and his works are informed by those communal values which have a direct bearing on definitions of the Australian nation state. Ongoing debates in Australia about citizenship in a globalized world, about the relative autonomy of the literary work of art, about the links between culture and religion find valuable expression in Rushdie's works.

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DP1097057 Dr L Perry

Approved Project Title **How is school socio-economic composition associated with student outcomes? A comparative study of seven countries**

2010 : \$ 20,000

2011 : \$ 20,000

Primary RFCD 3301 EDUCATION STUDIES

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

School socio-economic composition is strongly associated with educational outcomes for all Australian students. This association is problematic because it reduces educational equity and opportunity for students at low socio-economic schools, which in turn reduces Australia's ability to fully invest in its most valuable resource, its young people. The current Labor government is committed to investing in low socio-economic schools. This study will highlight ways to support low socio-economic schools by showing how they differ from more advantaged ones. Comparative analysis of educationally equitable and efficient countries will provide further evidence for ways to support low socio-economic schools in Australia.

DP1093214 Prof G Rodan

Approved Project Title **Representation and Political Regimes in Southeast Asia**

2010 : \$ 137,000

2011 : \$ 166,000

2012 : \$ 130,000

2013 : \$ 100,000

2014 : \$ 80,182

Primary RFCD 3601 POLITICAL SCIENCE

APF Prof G Rodan

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

Comprehending drivers and directions of political regimes in Southeast Asia is urgently needed as the global financial crisis and climate change pose new challenges for Australia's regional engagement. Aid strategies to support and promote preferred political and other governance institutions will be enhanced by knowledge of the conflicts and alliances over political representation. Specific coalitions functional for democratic institutions in particular would become clearer. Business interests in trade and investment will benefit from understanding the nature and extent of conflicts over representation and their potential or otherwise to result in trade protectionism and affect political stability.

DP1093364 Dr L Ucnik; Prof DB Moran; Dr I Chvatik

Approved Project Title **Judgment, responsibility, and the life-world: The phenomenological critique of formalism**

2010 : \$ 40,000

2011 : \$ 60,000

2012 : \$ 67,000

Primary RFCD 4401 PHILOSOPHY

Administering Organisation Murdoch University

Project Summary

This project will contribute to building Australia's capacity in the area of phenomenology and connecting Australian researchers into the international network of phenomenology research. More generally the project will contribute to the broader community debate that is currently emerging around issues of the role and limits of knowledge, especially scientific knowledge, but also knowledge as it arises and is applied in organisational and social contexts, and the importance of responsibility and judgment even in areas of technical problem-solving and decision-making. In this latter respect, the project is likely to have an impact in more directly applied areas such as policy formation and decision-making across many different areas.