



Examples of new *Discovery Projects* in 2010

Northern Territory

Charles Darwin University (Contact: 08 8946 6551)

Can there be good policy? Tracing the paths between policy intent, evidence and practical benefit in regional and remote Australia (DP1094139)

Summary: By tracking major health, housing and education reforms currently underway across regional and remote Australia, this research generates fresh perspectives on an urgent contemporary debate in Indigenous social affairs: namely, are governments best placed to drive social change or to determine policy imperatives; and if not, are there alternate ways to generate good policy? An anthropological approach will be used to observe government policy at work. The research will explore the institutional reasons behind the gap between intention and outcome in Indigenous social policy; how failure cycles in policy are replicated; and possible techniques for creating and implementing a new ethics of policy engagement.

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor Teresa Lea

ARC funding: \$775,000 over 5 years

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Long range interactions of atoms (DP1092620)

Summary: Atomic physics is often described as both a basic and enabling discipline and the present project on long range atomic interactions fits within both of those categories. The results of the project will lead to a more thorough understanding of the details of long range atom-atom interactions. This will lead to Australian expertise making a significant contribution in a number of cutting edge areas in atomic and molecular physics.

Chief Investigator: Dr Jim Mitroy

ARC funding: \$254,000 over 3 years

