



Examples of new *Discovery Projects* in 2010

Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences

Monash University (Contact: 03 9903 4840)

International student safety from crime (DP1095202)

Summary: International education currently generates \$15.5 billion per annum in exports and involves 520,000 students in Australia. Safety from crime is a fundamental requirement of international students and source governments are insisting Australia needs to improve student safety. These demands must be met if Australia is to sustain its level of involvement in the industry. The project will assist this effort and will contribute to Research Priority 4: Safeguarding Australia by helping develop solutions to student crime problems that are tailored to Australia's unique circumstances. The project will help enrich Australia's international reputation and improve the safety of international students and Australian communities.

Chief Investigator: Professor Christopher Nyland

ARC funding: \$385,000 over 4 years

Murdoch University (Contact: 08 9360 1289)

Protect, prepare and engage: Does extracurricular activity participation offer sustained benefits for youth? (DP1095791)

Summary: Organised 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.

Chief Investigator: Professor Bonnie Barber

ARC funding: \$340,000 over 3 years

Griffith University (Contact: 07 3735 6458)

Work life after a diagnosis of breast, prostate and colorectal cancer: Major disruption or work as usual (DP1095273)

Summary: Each year over 40,000 working-age individuals are affected by a diagnosis of cancer. This novel and important study will, for the first time in Australia, identify the extent and effects of loss of skilled workers from the workforce because of a diagnosis of breast, prostate or colorectal cancer and will lead to the development of new interventions that help people to recover from cancer. This project is critical to help advance health and labour policies in Australia which currently faces an ageing population, global economic unrest and rising unemployment.

Chief Investigator: Dr Louisa Gordon

ARC funding: \$240,000 over 3 years



The University of New South Wales (Contact: 02 9385 2864)

Can parents teach their children to drink alcohol responsibly? Or is one drop a drop too many? (DP1096668)

Summary: Parents typically supply alcohol to their children believing it is the best way to teach responsible drinking. Whether parents should provide alcohol is controversial and the evidence to inform this decision is unclear. This research will provide an in-depth understanding of the consequences of parents providing alcohol to their children and when, where and how this can be done to minimise harm. This is a national priority as alcohol abuse is a leading cause of injury and death among young Australians and developing the knowledge for preventive health care is essential. This research will provide parents with the information they need to give their children a healthier start to life.

Chief Investigator: Professor Richard Mattick

ARC funding: \$760,000 over 5 years

University of South Australia (Contact: 08 8302 0966)

Understanding employee-employer relationships during bridge employment: A psychological contract perspective (DP1096037)

Summary: Bridge employment (paid employment after retirement from career job) has several advantages for the individual (financial benefits, feeling of social connectedness, sense of accomplishment), employing organisations (access to experienced and skilled workers) and the government (lower burden on pension and benefits schemes). The proposed research will study the employee-employer relationship in bridge employment, with a focus on their perceptions of mutual obligations, also referred to as the psychological contract. An understanding of the psychological contracts will make it more likely that the employment relationship fulfils the needs of the employees and the employers and leads to a more successful bridge employment relationship.

Chief Investigator: Professor Prashant Bordia

ARC funding: \$180,000 over 3 years

University of Technology, Sydney (Contact: 02 9514 1616)

How the allocation of children's time affects the stimulation of cognitive and non-cognitive development (DP1094719)

Summary: In a 2008 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report, more than 7 per cent of Australian children have fewer than 11 books in their family home, Australia ranks in the bottom third of OECD nations for infant mortality and 21st out of 27 for children eating meals with their parents. The Rudd Government is committed to a child-centred approach to family policy. In this study we investigate the allocation of Australian children's time and its effect on their cognitive and non-cognitive development. As Economics Nobel prize winner Jim Heckman points out, cognitive and non-cognitive development is crucial to the future wellbeing of a child and therefore to the wellbeing of the nation.

Chief Investigator: Professor Michael Keane

ARC funding: \$300,000 over 3 years