



## Examples of new *Linkage Projects* in 2010

### Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences

**Deakin University** (Contact: 03 5227 2776)

*Healthy eating and obesity prevention for preschoolers: A randomised controlled trial* (LP100100049)

**Summary:** Australian researchers can take a lead in the prevention of obesity during the formative preschool years when prevention intervention strategies have been evaluated systematically and rigorously. This will be the first study in Australia to evaluate the impact of a healthy eating and childhood obesity prevention program for parents of preschool children, regardless of weight status. The findings will assist in further developing evidence-based prevention strategies that can be rolled out extensively in the Australian community for maintenance of healthy weight gain in preschool children.

*Chief Investigator: Dr Helen Skouteris*

**ARC funding:** \$200,000 over 3 years

**Monash University** (Contact: 03 9903 4840)

*Development of psychological capital in emergency service organisations* (LP100100032)

**Summary:** This project will identify ways in which the performance and wellbeing of volunteer and paid members of emergency service organisations can be enhanced, potentially diminishing the likelihood of depression, aggression, and other detrimental effects. The findings will also contribute to the quality of training provided to leaders in emergency services. Theoretically, the project will advance understanding of the mechanisms that underpin the psychological capital construct, placing Australian researchers at the forefront of this important emerging field of inquiry.

*Chief Investigator: Professor Charmine Härtel*

**ARC funding:** \$240,000 over 3 years



**Monash University** (Contact: 03 9903 4840)

*Optimising the design and implementation of public transport priority initiatives* (LP100100159)

**Summary:** This project strengthens national approaches to a pervasive Australian problem, growing traffic congestion deteriorating liveability, environmental health and economic performance of the cities where most Australians live. Public transport can address these issues but most is provided by buses which are caught up in traffic congestion. This project improves approaches for traffic priority design to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of on-road public transport. It optimises the design of individual and groups of priority treatments and will generate diagnostic tools to better target priority treatments. Findings will better focus Australia's approach to increasingly challenging transport futures.

*Chief Investigator: Professor Graham Currie*

**ARC funding:** \$182,294 over 3 years

**Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology** (Contact: 03 9925 2373)

*Smart algorithms for visual field assessment* (LP100100250)

**Summary:** Australian demographic studies show that visual impairment contributes significantly to elderly disability. Visual field loss due to glaucoma, the second leading cause of blindness in developed nations, may be slowed if detected early, but recent studies estimate that 50 per cent of Australians with glaucoma are undiagnosed. The fast and effective approaches to measuring visual fields discovered in this project will allow more accurate diagnosis and monitoring of vision loss, crucial for the priority goals of ageing well, ageing productively and of preventative healthcare. Developing smart algorithms in conjunction with Heidelberg Engineering creates an opportunity for the international promotion of Australia's biomedical software capabilities.

*Chief Investigator: Associate Professor Andrew Turpin*

**ARC funding:** \$151,538 over 3 years

**The University of Melbourne** (Contact: 03 8344 4123)

*The reliability of corporate reporting of greenhouse gas estimates: Determinants, consequences, training for accountants and policy initiatives* (LP100100076)

**Summary:** The first outcome from this research is the development of tools to assist and train the Australian accountancy profession in the estimation of reliable emissions. The second outcome is identification of factors associated with the inaccuracy and bias of greenhouse gas emissions reported by companies and the consequences of the inaccuracies for the share market's valuation of emission liabilities. These research findings will identify issues that need to be addressed by regulators to ensure greenhouse gas estimates reported by companies are reliable.

*Chief Investigator: Associate Professor Matthew Pinnuck*

**ARC funding:** \$132,000 over 3 years