



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

MEDIA LEAD

Linkage Projects Round Two For funding commencing in 2010

Australian Capital Territory

The Australian Capital Territory will receive \$1,821,857 for 7 Linkage Projects.

The University of Canberra will receive \$80,007 over three years for the following project:

Modelling the lifetime social and economic impacts of fragile x syndrome and the benefits of early diagnosis and intervention (LP100200026)

Fragile X Syndrome (FXS) is the most common identifiable cause of inherited intellectual disability.

Between one in 2500 and 4000 Australian males will have an intellectual disability associated with Fragile X. While the prevalence of Fragile X in females is the same as that in males, only about 50 per cent of females will have some degree of intellectual disability. However, while many females with Fragile X have normal IQs, they are often affected by behavioural, emotional, and/or learning disabilities. As many as one in 125 females may be carriers of the Fragile X gene.

FXS has been the subject of an increasing amount of medical research since the late 1960s but this work has not been complemented by research into the social and economic costs attached to individuals and families nor into the burden of the disorder at a national level.

For the first time in Australia, this study will reveal the social and economic impacts on the individual, on their family members who are often the lifelong carers, and on the Australian community, and show how these impacts may be minimised through early detection and intervention.

Media contacts

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