

Summary of Linkage Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in July 2007

New South Wales

University of Wollongong

LP0776810 Prof RL Chambers; Prof DG Steel

Approved Project Title **New methods for small group analysis from sample surveys**

2007 : \$ 64,250

2008 : \$ 123,000

2009 : \$ 116,250

2010 : \$ 57,500

Primary RFCD 2302 STATISTICS

APA(I) Award(s): 2

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Centre for Epidemiology and Research
Public Health Intelligence

Administering Organisation University of Wollongong

Project Summary

National and state averages of statistics on issues such as unemployment, salinity, drought impact, and health often hide large differences between population sub-groups and between small areas. This local variation needs to be understood so that effective policies can be developed and carried out efficiently and their impact monitored. This project will provide, for the first time, robust and efficient methods for providing information on these variations using data from large-scale national and state surveys. This will lead to significant improvements in the data available for small population groups and small areas, allowing better targeting of policies aimed at addressing local differences.

LP0776569 Prof Dr S Dolnicar; Prof Dr JR Rossiter; Dr J Ciarrochi; Mr AB Munro; Mr MS Gunasekara; Ms DJ Neveling

Approved Project Title **Identifying, attracting and retaining successful foster parents.**

2007 : \$ 45,000

2008 : \$ 85,000

2009 : \$ 80,000

2010 : \$ 85,000

2011 : \$ 115,000

2012 : \$ 70,000

Primary RFCD 3502 BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

CareSouth

Administering Organisation University of Wollongong

Project Summary

This research project will improve Australian foster care systems. By developing tools to identify, attract and retain successful foster parents more effectively we will address two critical problems facing foster care organisations: decreasing numbers of foster parents and increasing numbers of 'placement breakdowns'. Improvements of these factors will (1) give foster children a more positive and healthier start to life; (2) reduce the extent to which foster children develop antisocial and emotional attachment problems; (3) reduce the incidence of criminal and antisocial behaviours among foster children; and consequently (4) have a positive long-term effect on the social fabric of Australia.

LP0776689 Prof Dr S Dolnicar; A/Prof LT Lyons; Prof S Ville

Approved Project Title **The role of community connectedness in retaining skilled migrant women in Australia**

2007 : \$ 12,813

2008 : \$ 25,627

2009 : \$ 25,627

2010 : \$ 12,813

Primary RFCD 3701 SOCIOLOGY

APA(I) Award(s): 1

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Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Office for Women - New South Wales Government Premier's Department

Administering Organisation University of Wollongong

Project Summary

Australia faces a severe skills shortage in areas central to its social fabric and that are traditionally dominated by women: nursing, childcare and teaching. While we are successful in attracting skilled migrants to fill these gaps, one third choose to leave Australia within 5 years. This is a very unfavourable outcome in view of the continuing skills shortage and the unrecoverable costs associated with attracting skilled migrants. The project will gain insight into factors that influence the retention rates of skilled female migrants and, in doing so, enable government agencies to develop targeted retention measures.

LP0776836 A/Prof CJ Gonsalvez; Prof A Blaszczyński; Dr AR Clarke

Approved Project Title **Problem Gambling: Can Subtle Physiological Reactions To Wins And Losses Help Identify The Problem Gambler?**

2007 : \$ 12,813

2008 : \$ 25,627

2009 : \$ 25,627

2010 : \$ 12,813

Primary RFCD 3801 PSYCHOLOGY

APA(I) Award(s): 1

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Tabcorp Holdings Limited

Aristocrat Technologies Australia, Pty. Ltd

Administering Organisation University of Wollongong

Project Summary

Problem gambling is a major public health issue affecting 3%-6% of the adult population with the Productivity Commission (1999) detailing many associated consequences including major depression, suicide, substance abuse, marital and familial dysfunction and domestic violence. Problem gambling also has deleterious, long term effects on the mental and physical health of partners and children. Vulnerable groups include adolescents and young adults, socio-economically disadvantaged subpopulations, and specific ethnic minorities. The project's focus on identifying physiological patterns specific to problem gamblers represents an important first step in the development of an early screening test and timely interventions for at-risk individuals.

LP0776729 Dr PR Massingham; Cmdr R Longbottom; Mr RA Duggan

Approved Project Title **Measuring and Managing the Impact of Lost Organisational Knowledge**

2007 : \$ 30,000

2008 : \$ 60,000

2009 : \$ 60,000

2010 : \$ 30,000

Primary RFCD 3502 BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

APA(I) Award(s): 1

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Department of Defence

Administering Organisation University of Wollongong

Project Summary

This research should produce significant economic and social benefits for many sectors, and the theoretical model potentially has practical benefits for all organisations. It addresses a widespread problem across the public service: the country's ageing demographic, which is affecting its efficiency and sustainability. It will improve the Royal Australian Navy's capacity to maintain national security, and help it to manage industry better. This will create cost savings and improve risk management, and thereby also contribute to one of the ARC's priority research areas: Safeguarding Australia.

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LP0776711 Prof MJ Walker; Dr S Djordjevic

Approved Project Title **Defining domains within Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae surface proteins that interact with host extracellular matrix: efficacy testing of candidate vaccines in swine**

2007 : \$ 54,000

2008 : \$ 108,000

2009 : \$ 108,000

2010 : \$ 54,000

Primary RFCD 2703 MICROBIOLOGY

APA(I) Award(s): 1

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

NSW Department of Primary Industries

Administering Organisation University of Wollongong

Project Summary

Over 90% of Australian commercial pig production facilities are affected by Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae, the causative agent of swine enzootic pneumonia. This disease causes economic losses in Australia of over \$20 million per annum and up to \$1 billion per annum in major swine rearing countries worldwide. This project will determine the protective efficacy of new generation vaccines against M. hyopneumoniae, which aim to block the colonisation process and prevent disease .

LP0776644 A/Prof SP Zhu; A/Prof P Cooper; Dr DH Wood; Dr T Denniss

Approved Project Title **Wave to Wire: Optimising Hydrodynamic Performance and Capture Efficiency of Next Generation Ocean Wave Energy Systems**

2007 : \$ 56,340

2008 : \$ 105,950

2009 : \$ 100,594

2010 : \$ 50,984

Primary RFCD 2918 INTERDISCIPLINARY ENGINEERING

APA(I) Award(s): 1

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Energetech Australia Pty Ltd

Administering Organisation University of Wollongong

Project Summary

Wave energy in the oceans of the world represents a vast renewable energy resource that has not been tapped. This project will play a crucial role in maximising the performance and economic viability of a unique Australian wave energy technology. We will develop a dynamically integrated theoretical model aimed at capturing the complex behaviour of ocean waves and optimising the energy capture efficiency of the Oscillating Water Column (OWC) wave energy system. One of the most exciting aspects of the technology is its potential to provide on-site bulk desalination of seawater, whilst being driven entirely by renewable energy. It will also result in significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation.