



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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UNE research gets Federal funding

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has welcomed the funding announcement by the Minister for Education Science and Technology, the Hon Dr Brendan Nelson for a number of research projects to be conducted at the University of New England.

“Research is a vital component of a University’s activities and it is also a vital part of helping to expand and progress our knowledge.

The University of New England has excellent research capacity and the projects to be funded will contribute much to better understanding our past, present and future opportunities and needs.

I congratulate all those associated with the research projects and wish them every success in achieving their goals and expanding our knowledge in these fields.

I also thank Minister Nelson and the Federal Government for including funding for the 6 projects through the Australian Research Council process,” Mr Windsor said.

The following are the projects to receive funding support from the Federal Government and those UNE Staff associated with each project and the funding for each project.

The University of New England Projects

DP0663498 Prof BJ Byrne; Prof RK Olson; Dr SJ Wadsworth; Dr E Willcutt; Prof SS Samuelsson

Approved Project Title **Longitudinal twin study of literacy, language and attention**

2006 : \$208,000

2007 : \$95,000

2008 : \$75,000

2009 : \$55,000

Primary RFCD 3801 PSYCHOLOGY

Administering Institution The University of New England

Project Summary

The primary practical national benefit will be in the unrivalled picture that emerges about how genetic factors interact with aspects of the familial and educational environment to determine the course of children's development in literacy and language.

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Policy makers in preschool and school education will be able to use the information to guide curriculum refinement and to develop policies for the early identification of children at developmental risk in these domains. As an international project, the research will also promote scientific cooperation between Australia, the USA, and Scandinavia in a cutting-edge branch of human psychology, the interaction of genes and environment in psychological development.

DP0666015 Prof A Kaur

Approved Managing the Border: Migration, Security, and State Policy Responses to Global Governance in Southeast Asia

Project Title

2006 : \$49,864

2007 : \$45,244

2008 : \$44,614

2009 : \$44,614

2010 : \$39,864

Primary RFCD 3705 DEMOGRAPHY

Administering Institution The University of New England

Project Summary

This project, which aims to inform public discussion and policy development on two important areas, population and migration and security and governance, in Southeast Asia, will contribute to the process of safeguarding Australia through improved understanding of our neighbours' state policies. The scholarly outcomes will also support teaching in refugee and migration studies. An enhanced understanding of, and cooperation on population regulation and the movement of people across and within borders in the region is central to the maintenance of effective bilateral and multilateral relations between Australia and its neighbours.

DP0665079 Mr M Moore

Approved How Do Stone Tools Reflect Cognition Among the First Australians and their Precursors?

Project Title

2006 : \$85,000

2007 : \$78,000

2008 : \$78,000

Primary RFCD 4302 ARCHAEOLOGY AND PREHISTORY

APD Mr M Moore

Administering Institution The University of New England

Project Summary

The popularity of the Indonesian 'hobbit' (*Homo floresiensis*) discovery provides an ideal platform for interpreting Australasian prehistory to a wider community. This project explores the arrival of modern humans in Indonesia, their interaction with 'hobbits', and the colonisation of Australia by comparing the different ways these hominins made stone tools. Although research indicates a significant level of behavioural unity in our genus, 'hobbits' were not like us. 'Us' refers, of course, to modern humans, and hence this research is of global relevance. By applying a 'design space' model to toolmaking in the past, this project will demonstrate that the earliest trends in technology apply equally to human groups throughout the world.

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DP0662961 Dr SJ Pearson (nee Smith)

Approved Project Title **Synchrotrons, wavelet analysis and novel imaging techniques - applying physics tools to the war against breast cancer**

2006 : \$80,000
2007 : \$60,000
2008 : \$50,000

Primary RFCD 2499 OTHER PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Administering Institution The University of New England

Project Summary

Breast cancer leads to the second highest number of person-years of life lost due to cancer in Australia, with little known about its transport around the body. Current screening methods for breast cancer are neither 100% sensitive or specific and are heavily dependent upon expert training. This project will contribute by yielding valuable information on the transport of breast cancer and contribute to the development of an automated diagnostic method, with the possibility of its application to other diseases. The project will also involve members of the regional community, train regional scientists and provide synchrotron experience for Australian scientists in time for Australia's first synchrotron.

DP0663798 A/Prof M Somerville; Prof BD Davies; Dr K Power; Dr SM Gannon

Approved Project Title **Enabling place pedagogies in rural and urban Australia**

2006 : \$60,000
2007 : \$50,000
2008 : \$50,000

Primary RFCD 3302 CURRICULUM STUDIES

Administering Institution The University of New England

Project Summary

This project will tell us how children and adults learn about place in the local areas where they live and work. The findings will be applied in action research with teachers in early childhood, school, and adult education settings, and in the preparation of teachers. It will address two Research Priority areas, 1: An Environmentally Sustainable Australia and 2. Strengthening Australia's economic and social fabric, which we argue are inseparable. Incorporating the findings into the curricula of teacher education will ensure that the project will have sustained long term benefits as well as the immediate application built into the study.

DP0666376 A/Prof M Somerville

Approved Project Title **Bubbles on the surface: a place pedagogy of the Narran Lakes**

2006 : \$74,000
2007 : \$30,000
2008 : \$44,000

Primary RFCD 4203 CULTURAL STUDIES

Administering Institution The University of New England

Project Summary

The project will provide Aboriginal, ecological humanities, and pedagogical input into the problem of environmental sustainability in the Murray-Darling Basin, complementing current physical science initiatives.

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It will have immediate national benefit in the production of educational resources based on alternative and previously invisible stories of water in the Narran Lakes area, an icon site in the Murray-Darling Basin. The findings will have longer term national benefit by identifying the elements of a general pedagogy of place, drawn from the specific local case study of the Narran Lakes, which will be applied in adult and community education.