

Early Years Program: 2006 Report

Strategy 2006

Senior researchers in the Early Years program had considerable success in the ARC funding round in 2005 and had further success in funding from other research sources in 2006. Therefore, the strategy for allocation of Early Years Program funds in 2006 was to direct funding to ECR staff and HDR students, setting a proviso that those accepting funding produce a paper for submission to a quality refereed journal within 3 months. The aim was to facilitate dissemination and networking at conferences but also increase the weighted publication rate. Funds were also allocated to printing of key reports from the EYP (Preparing for School Study and National Childcare Standards report) so that they were available for staff and student in the library, and so they may be processed as weighted research books (A1) Using this method we have achieved two original research book publications (A1) for the DEST collection. Funding was also allocated to administrative assistance in order to manage the EY program.

Activity 2006

The program has run a monthly seminar program and has, in addition, had a number of guest speakers including international academics. Plans for 2007 are to continue a seminar program but also increase journal and writing workshops.

The program has been actively engaged in two RQF trials: ATN national and international. These have been enormously informative for our strategic direction in 2006. They alert us to our high state and national impact, argue clearly for more integrated and multi-disciplinary patterns of work and publication and a stress the need for international reach, not only of individuals but of the team as a whole. Strategy direction for 2007 is to increase joint publication with teams in Norway, UK and USA

The program has been active in seeking external funding. Five submissions were made to the ARC (one through Health). Two members of the program were successful in achieving ARC Discoveries in 2006 -Susan Danby (lead CI) and Sue Grieshaber (second CI with lead CI, Allan Luke). A further linkage application was top ranked and has been offered internal incentive funding (Dowd, Thorpe, Danby, Emmison). Program members have succeeded with a number of high profile commercial research projects including:

- two evaluations for programs funded through the Australian Government *Communities for Children* Strategy (Berthelsen and Nicholson – Sing and Grow, Tayler; Thorpe and Dowd – Centacare, Mt Isa),
- a Cost Benefit Analysis of early intervention programs for the Victorian Government Department of Treasury and Finance (Tayler, Wilson and Thorpe);
- a review of National Childcare standards (Tayler, Wilson, Hayden and Wills) for the Community and Disability Services Ministers Council of COAG.

ECR Julie Davis obtained funding from the Sustainability Institute - this team also includes HDR student and staff member Wendy Boyd.

Applications have also been submitted to Rotary (Bethelsen and Walker) and Dell (Thorpe and Tayler) and the South Australian Government (Tayler, Thorpe and Wilson).

Publication rates have been good. For the period January – July 2006, 27 refereed journal articles, 6 book chapters and 6 refereed conference papers were published. Figures for the second part of the year have yet to be collated. Importantly, there has been increasing awareness of strategy to target journals with optimum impact factors and to move from refereed papers to full refereed articles in quality journals. Karen Thorpe and Susan Danby co-edited a special issue of *Twin Research and Human Genetics* (Impact 1.8) achieving 4 QUT publications including one Honours student's work (Sioban Laffey- Ardley, 1st class B.Psych (Hons) supervised by Karen Thorpe).

Budget

The Early Years Program was allocated \$15,000 from CLI. This was expended as follows

	\$
Administration (Lyndal O Gorman)	4695.48
ECR /HDR conference attendance	7059.22
Printing of reports	1002.35
International visitors: Melhuish	\$200.00
: Cleveland	\$910.00
Thorpe /Tayler meeting with Prof. Ed Melhuish	654.18
Registrations : Julie Davis	500.00
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