

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Fair Go at Tackling Poverty

Associate Professor Geoff Munns and Associate Professor Wayne Sawyer from the Centre for Educational Research, are collaborating with partner investigator Ms Tracey Kick from the NSW Department of Education and Training to explore how school teachers can affect and assist students in poverty through a three year Australian Research Council Linkage Grant.

'Education is a well-recognised way out of poverty, and teachers make the difference in this endeavour,' says Associate Professor Munns. 'Research in Australia and overseas has consistently highlighted the influence of teachers and the way they teach as the critical factor in the educational success of students in poverty. The NSW DET Priority Schools Programs aims to narrow the equity gap for public school students in the poorest communities in NSW, and recognise that outstanding teachers are a decisive factor in this work. However, there is still much to be uncovered about the fine detail of what this teaching might look like in classrooms. This project, in conjunction with the Priority Schools Programs, will look at the link between teacher effectiveness and student engagement for students and teachers from Kindergarten to Year 12, and what effects this link has on poverty reduction for individual students and the community.'

Using groundwork already established in a project called 'Fair Go' carried out by UWS and DET, the investigators will use observation and intensive case-study analysis to identify practices used by teachers who are successful in engaging students who live in poverty, and will measure the positive impact of this engagement on social and academic outcomes.



This project will contribute to strengthening Australia's social and economic wellbeing by making a difference for communities in Australia that continue to be locked in entrenched disadvantage through the persistent cycle that links poverty with restricted educational outcomes, thus improving social outcomes and equity for all Australians.

Project Title: Teachers for a Fair Go: A study of teachers who make a difference to students in poverty

Funding has been set at: \$259,000 ARC contribution and \$347,640 cash and in-kind partner contribution

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