

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Truly Gifted Research

Professor Rhonda Craven, Dr Alex Yeung, Adjunct Professor Ladd Wheeler and Ms Marjorie Seaton from the Centre for Educational Research along with Professor Herbert Marsh from the University of Oxford are exploring the impact of educational settings on the well-being of gifted children through a four-year ARC Discovery Project.

'As gifted students are expected to be future leaders in all fields of endeavour, there is an increasing worldwide emphasis on how to educate gifted students most effectively', says Professor Craven. 'Despite this emphasis on how to enable gifted children to realise their full potential, there is a surprising lack of evidence-based research telling us what are the key drivers of life potential and the impact of different settings on educational outcomes for gifted students. We aim to improve Australia's capacity to educate gifted students by informing practice on selection processes, maximising the potential of gifted young Australians, and providing guidance for future intervention strategies.'

Capitalising on cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, a powerful experimental design involving multiple factors over different age groups and different settings, and complex state-of-the-art analysis techniques, the research team will study the psychological and social factors that determine the educational outcomes of gifted students. The team will determine the typical behavioural and personal characteristics of learners who benefit most from gifted education programs and assess the impact of different settings on educational outcomes, such as, achievement in math, English, basic skills and school grades. Social and



psychological well-being factors such as self-concept, academic resilience, career aspirations and motivation will also be explored in gifted students.

By identifying new solutions to realise gifted students' potential, this research will contribute substantially to enhancing Australia's claim to be a 'clever country' and will have important implications for the future education and life outcomes of gifted Australians.

Project Title: Realising Gifted Students' Potential: Elucidating psychosocial determinants and impact of different educational settings on educational outcomes and psychosocial wellbeing
Funding has been set at: \$555,000
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January 2008