

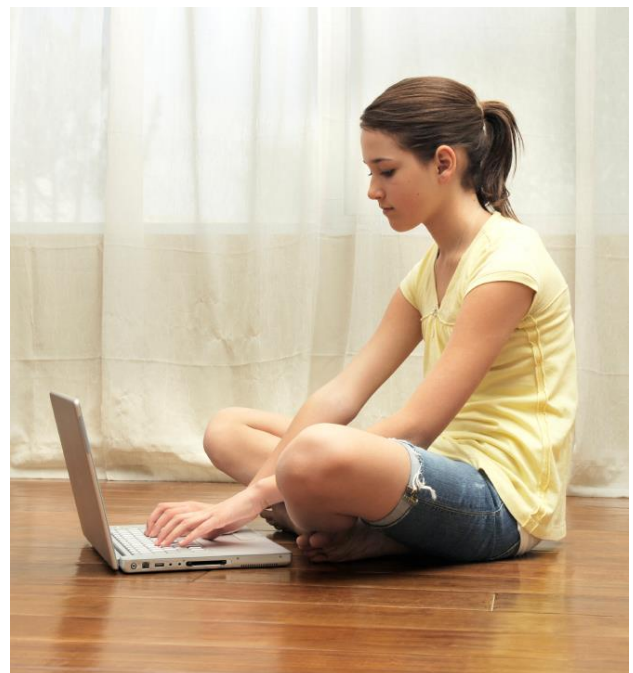
RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Young People and Technology

Dr Amanda Third of the Institute for Culture and Society is examining issues regarding young people and their wellbeing through technology use. This project is funded by the Australian Research Council through its Linkage grant scheme in collaboration with seven industry partners.*

'Today's media technologies are having a profound effect on cultures globally and the internet in particular is shaping the ways young people acquire knowledge and even define their individual and social identities,' says Dr Third. 'For young people, technology is an "enabler" allowing them to have a voice and participate in community engagement and decision-making. While cybersafety has often dominated research agendas, a roundtable alliance of government, corporate and not-for-profit organisations is seeking to promote the *positive* impact that technology can have on young people when used properly. However, there is still a lot of duplication and lack of coordination and collaboration across sectors. Up-to-date research is needed to determine best practice models and for developing new initiatives for service delivery to young Australians. Part of this project will be to observe and participate in the roundtable as a "living lab" so that the knowledge-sharing process can be studied in action.'

This project will use a participant research model where young people will also form part of the research design and participate in pilot studies. An online publically available research clearing house will be developed that can be shared by policy makers, parents, consumer groups, media companies, educators, marketers, public health organisations and young people themselves. Research workshops and briefing reports will also form part of the research and an interdisciplinary symposium will bring together academic specialists from a range of disciplines but all working on the issues of young people and technology use.



By developing a comprehensive and timely information and research sharing network among service providers to young people, resourcing can become smarter and more efficient. This project will also help to establish Australia as a global leader of innovative research into the new field of young people, technology and wellbeing, enhancing Australia's reputation for research excellence.

Project Title: Young People, Technology and Wellbeing Research Facility

Funding has been set at: \$201,000

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***Industry Partners:**

Inspire Foundation

Foundation for Young Australians

Telstra Foundation

National Children's and Youth Law Centre

BoysTown

NSW Commission for Children & Young People

Starlight Children's Foundation