

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Cultivating Capability

Professor Rhonda Craven, Associate Professor Alex Yeung, Dr Marjorie Seaton and Dr Anthony Dillon from the Centre for Positive Psychology and Education, together with NSW Department of Education and Communities have been awarded a UWS Research Partnership grant to determine the issues impacting Aboriginal students seeking placement in opportunity classes and selective high schools.

'In Australia and throughout the world there is an increasing emphasis on how to effectively educate academically gifted students to cultivate their capability and maximise their full potential,' explains Professor Craven. 'Gifted students are expected to provide future leaders in all fields and justify claims that Australia is the "clever" country. The appropriate education of gifted students can be argued on the basis of excellence and equity enriching the intellectual climate and strengthening the socio-economic fabric of multicultural Australia, and the cultivation of talent in all facets of Australian society. However, in Australia the talents of gifted Aboriginal students are yet to be fully harnessed and realised.'

The research team will critically evaluate the perceptions of multiple stakeholders about the value and tangible impact of opportunity classes and mixed-ability settings on educational outcomes and psychosocial well-being of gifted primary Aboriginal students to offer evidence-based new solutions that will allow gifted students to realise their potential. Semi-structured, focused individual interviews will be conducted with each of the stakeholder groups. A further consideration for this research is the often complex nexus of factors unique to Indigenous people (e.g., perceived racism, social disadvantage, and identification as an over-researched group) that introduce problems not typically encountered when doing research with non-Indigenous participants.



The outcome of the research will provide a platform for further research on ways to increase the participation of gifted and talented Aboriginal students in opportunity classes and selective high schools.

Project Title: Cultivating Capability: Explicating What Works for Gifted Aboriginal Primary Students and the Impact of Gifted Education Settings on Educational Outcomes and Psychosocial Wellbeing

Funding has been set at: \$25,000

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