



Australian Scholarship Group Early Intervention Research Program Program Information

The Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne and the Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) have partnered to establish the ASG Early Intervention Research Program, a five-year study that will investigate how students can achieve learning success by studying children before they even start school.

With an estimated 10 percent of Australian primary-aged children experiencing academic under-achievement (and much higher in disadvantaged schools), the findings are expected to provide a framework for teachers and parents in how to intervene with children facing learning challenges and help children reach their full education potential.

Core Research Team:

(See below for details)

- Professor Field Rickards – Principal Investigator
- Associate Professor Margaret Brown – Program Director
- Linda Byrnes – Research Fellow
- Dr John Munro – Principal Investigator
- Professor Bridie Raban – Principal Investigator

Reference Group:

A multi-disciplinary group that has advised the core research team where future research needs to be directed.

- Patrick Griffin – Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne
- Frank Oberklaid – Royal Children's Hospital
- David Huggins – Catholic Education Office
- Rob Blatchford – Department of Education and Training
- Gill Callaster – Department of Human Services
- Ian Claridge – Department of Education and Training
- John Allman – Department of Education and Training

Profiles of the Core Research Team:

- **Professor Field Rickards – Principal Investigator**

Professor Field Rickards is the Dean of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne. Professor Rickards has published widely on deafness in children in both audiology and educational contexts. He has thirty years experience in the clinical and educational management of the hearing impaired. In addition, he has consulted to government and private industry. He brings to the program a multidisciplinary perspective of the early detection and educational intervention of children with learning challenges.

.... more / Over page

Profiles of the Core Research Team Continued:

- **Associate Professor Margaret Brown – Program Director**

Associate Professor Margaret Brown is Head of the Early Learning Development and Inclusion Unit and lectures in family-centered early intervention, early language and communication development, and parent-professional partnerships. Her research interests include the development of symbolization capacities in infants and young children; early communicative, linguistic and literacy development; young children's social-emotional development; quality assurance and program evaluation.

- **Dr John Munro – Principal Investigator**

Dr John Munro is Associate Professor and Head of Studies in Gifted Education and Exceptional Learning. He is a trained primary and secondary school teacher and a psychologist. His research and teaching interests are in contemporary models of learning and knowledge enhancement, learning internationally, literacy and numeracy learning and learning disabilities, gifted learning and professional learning. He works extensively with schools and educational providers in Australia and in the UK.

- **Professor Bridie Raban – Principal Investigator**

Professor Raban is currently Director of the Early Childhood Consortium at the University of Melbourne. During 1999–2000, Professor Raban was appointed as a Research Fellow to the Australian Commonwealth Government, during which time she worked with policymakers in developing a research agenda for the early years of education. Professor Raban's research has focused on language and literacy development, primary schooling, and curriculum and assessment in the early years of childhood.

Australian Scholarships Group Early Intervention Research Program, conducted under the auspices of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne and housed at the University's Early Learning Centre in Abbotsford, Melbourne, provides a longitudinal investigation of early learning and literacy development from a multi-disciplinary perspective. The establishment of the program confirms the Melbourne Graduate School of Education's focus on delivering high-impact, best practice research.

For more information about the Australian Scholarships Group Early Intervention Research Program:

- Visit ASG's website: www.asg.com.au/asgeirp for a comprehensive collection of information about the Program – updates will be posted regularly.
 - Contact Associate Professor Margaret Brown, Program Director, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne – Phone: +61 3 8344 0987 Email: pmbrown@unimelb.edu.au
Web: www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au
-