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Dr Bronwen Neil of the Centre for Early Christian Studies who won a Humboldt-Stiftung Fellowship to the University of Bonn.

Areas of research

Australian Catholic University has priority areas of research as defined by its Flagships, Research Centres and Institutes. Research is promoted by the Institute for the Advancement of Research, whose members include ACU National researchers and visiting scholars from Australian and international institutions.

Flagships

- Flagship for Creative and Authentic Leadership
- Mathematics and Literacy Education Research Flagship
- Quality of Life and Social Justice Flagship

Research Centres

- ACT Centre for Science, ICT and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (SiMERR ACT)
- Centre for Early Christian Studies
- Centre for Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship
- Centre for Lifelong Learning
- Centre of Physical Activity Across the Lifespan (CoPAAL)
- Centre for Research into Ethics and Decision-making in Organisations (CREDO)
- Golding Centre for Women's History, Theology and Spirituality
- Plunkett Centre for Ethics in Health Care and Biomedical Research
- National Centre for Clinical Outcomes Research, Nursing and Midwifery, Australia (NaCCOR)

Institutes

- Institute for the Advancement of Research
- Institute for Advancing Community Engagement
- Institute of Child Protection Studies
- Institute of Legal Studies

Research statistics

Research income

Commonwealth Government	\$756,099
Private industry and other	\$1,051,506
Other public sector	\$790,022
Total	\$2,597,627

Research outputs*

Books, authored research	8
Book chapters	41
Refereed journal articles	86
Refereed conference papers	62
Total	197

*2007 figures. Research publication data for 2008 being collected during the first quarter of 2009 for transmission to Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations



Environmental Science lecturer Dr Jennifer Taylor (centre) who has been working on conservation projects in Fiji with Taronga Zoo scientists, volunteers and the Fijian National Trust.

Research grants and partnerships

Australian Research Council (ARC) grants

Associate Professor Peter Howard and Professor Jude Butcher won an ARC–Linkage grant (\$120,000 over three years) with partners Mission Australia and the St Vincent de Paul Society for a project entitled *Social inclusion through community embedded, socially supported university education*.

The following other staff members won ARC Discovery grants with researchers from other universities:

- Professor Craven with a University of NSW project *Federalism for the 21st century*
- Professor Elizabeth Warren and Professor Tom Cooper of Queensland University of Technology, for their project *Young students' generalisation in arithmetic and algebra*
- Professor Peter Rendell with a University of NSW project *Everyday cognition in older adulthood*
- Professor Shurlee Swain with Monash University research into the *History of adoption in Australia*
- Professor Peter Camilleri and Associate Professor Morag McArthur with Latrobe University's project *A national assessment of Australia's children's courts*
- Professor Geraldine Naughton and six other researchers, for a project *Unleashing the power of play*.

Other awards

- An Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung Fellowship to the University of Bonn was awarded to Dr Bronwen Neil of ACU National's Centre for Early Christian Studies, to work on her project, *Leo the Great and poverty in fifth-century Rome*.
- A federal government Endeavour Executive Award was received by Dr Rhonda Faragher (senior lecturer, Education, at the Canberra Campus) for her program to improve the educational outcomes of children with Down syndrome in Singapore and Australia, working with colleagues at the National Institute of Education and the Down Syndrome Association of Singapore.
- A federal government grant was awarded to a consortium involving University staff and Catholic Education Offices in Western Australia, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst (\$1,319,200) for the project *Bridging the numeracy gap for students in low SES and Indigenous communities in regional Victoria and Western Australia*, with chief investigator ACU National senior lecturer and researcher Dr Ann Gervasoni.
- National Health and Medical Research funding of more than \$480,000 went to ACU National's Professor Naughton and Professor Anita Bundy of the University of Sydney, for their project *Playgrounds: a simple intervention for childhood obesity*.
- An Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing grant was awarded to Professor Naughton and six researchers from other universities for their project *Healthy eating and physical activity guidelines for early childhood settings*.

- DEEWR funding was awarded to Dr Toni Noble, School of Education (NSW), and the Flagship for Creative and Authentic Leadership, in collaboration with Erebus, for a scoping study on wellbeing to direct education in all Australian schools.
- A NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change grant was awarded to Dr Vaughan Monamy of the School of Arts and Sciences (NSW).
- An ARC grant (more than \$800,000 for three years) was won by the University of Melbourne with ACU National's Professor Shurlee Swain, School of Arts and Sciences (Victoria), as chief investigator for the project *Who am I? The archive as central to quality practice for current and past care leavers (Forgotten Australians)*.
- An AusAID Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Fellowships program grant (\$445,500) was received by the Flagship for Creative and Authentic Leadership for a project titled *Seeking influential and authentic leaders: a professional development program in capacity strengthening for educational leader*.

The goal of the ALA Fellowships is to develop leaders who, in the short-to-medium term, will be in a position to advance key regional policy issues. A total of 14 fellows from Nepal, India, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, PNG and the Philippines attended the professional development program at the Strathfield Campus in July.

- A grant was awarded to Professor Elizabeth Warren in partnership with the Queensland Catholic Education Office for more than \$300,000 from the Commonwealth Government for a research proposal, *Closing the gap – students experiencing success (SES) in mathematics*, aimed at improving the development of children's mathematics skills throughout the Catholic Dioceses of Cairns, Rockhampton and Toowoomba.

Professor Linda Worrall-Carter, Director of Melbourne Campus's centre for Nursing Research, with visiting Fulbright scholar Nursing Professor Barbara Riegel of the University of Pennsylvania.



- A grant of \$100,000 from the Catholic Education Office (CEO) Melbourne was awarded to Professor Clarke, A Downtown, J Brown, Professor P Clarkson, Associate Professor M Horne, A McDonough, A Roche and Dr A Scott for the project *Research and professional development for contemporary teaching and learning of mathematics*.
- Grants totalling nearly \$100,000 from St Vincent's Clinic Foundation were awarded to Professor Sandy Middleton and team of the Nursing Research Centre in Sydney, which includes newly appointed Professor Kim Walker and ACU National PhD students, for projects encompassing management of acute stroke, thromboembolism prevention and intensive care practice.
- Beyond Blue, an organisation that supports research on depression, awarded a \$78,365 grant to the University and St Vincent's Health Melbourne to study multidisciplinary ways of alleviating depression and anxiety among patients with heart disease. *Improving depression and anxiety screening of patients with heart disease: implementing a multidisciplinary clinical pathway*.
This project, to be led by ACU National's Professor Linda Worrall-Carter and colleagues in the Centre for Nursing Research, aims to improve screening practices for depression in addition to the identification of depression in those admitted to hospital with a heart attack. The study will link hospital care with the community by involving nurses, general practitioners, cardiologists, mental health service professionals and consumers.
- A \$60,000 grant was awarded to ACU National by the Australian Government's Whole of School Intervention Strategy for Building a Foundation for the University's Literacy and Numeracy Cluster Program, which aims to enhance literacy and numeracy outcomes for Indigenous children in the early years of schooling.

Publications by ACU National staff

Publications by staff include:

- *Vatican II: did anything happen?* co-authored by Professor Neil Ormerod
- *Matthew and his Christian contemporaries* co-edited by David Sim
- *The resurrection effect: transforming christian life and thought* by Anthony Kelly CSSR
- *The Scots in Australia* by history lecturer Malcolm Prentis
- *An investigation into the equity and efficiency of Australia's higher education system* by economics lecturer Dr Sarah Wright
- *Leading a digital school* co-authored by Michael Gaffney (Educational Leadership)
- *Catholic schools: hope in uncertain times*, a volume of articles co-edited by Dr Anne Benjamin, Adjunct Professor at ACU National and Dr Dan Riley (University of New England)
- *Journal of Business Ethics*, a significant paper by Dr Philip Cheng
- four co-authored books by Associate Professor Joseph Zaijda – *Nation-building, identity and citizenship education; Education and social inequality in the global culture; Comparative information technology; Comparative and global pedagogies: equity, access and democracy in education*.
- *A Well-founded Fear*, a documentary film on visiting former detention centre inmates after their return to Afghanistan, by Phil Glendenning, Director of the Edmund Rice Centre, ACU National's partner in much research and social justice activity.

Visiting researchers

Research visitors to the University included:

- Medical Professor Jeremy Grimshaw, of the University of Ottawa, visiting Australia as part of the federal government-sponsored National Institute of Clinical Studies Visiting Experts Program
- Nursing Professor Barbara Riegel, of University of Pennsylvania, who spent a semester as a Fulbright scholar with the Centre of Nursing Research, the Melbourne partnership centre of ACU National and St Vincent's Hospital.

Looking to the future

- ACU National decided to form its own Early Career Researchers group under the lead of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and International), Professor Peter Wilson. It is hoped that this will help research development in younger or less experienced members of staff.
- The Academic Board defined an "active researcher" during the year to fit in with DEEWR/DIISR categories and make research progress clearer.
- There was agreement also on the desirability of having a greater number of projects where ACU National is the lead university in a research partnership, and the necessity of working towards this improvement.

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research outputs

