

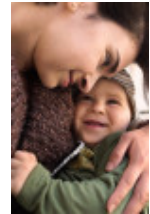


# Research Directions

Office of Research Services

## ***Better Child Protection***

**Professors Debra Jackson and Lesley Wilkes from the N-FORCE Research Group are collaborating with The Benevolent Society partner investigator Ms Jenni Hutchins to provide a sustainable framework for child protection to reduce neglect and abuse of Australian children through an ARC Linkage Project.**



'Children's neglect and abuse is an issue for all Australians' says Professor Jackson. 'Numerous programs are in place in Australia to enhance child protection but despite their resource intensity, relatively little research has been done into the effectiveness and sustainability of these interventions. This project will generate qualitative and numerical data from families and workers in an existing child protection service providing support for families that have been identified as moderate to high-risk families of abuse/ neglect. We will develop a best-practice model for child protection services that are essential to protect the well-being of children in these families.'

Working closely with the Benevolent Society, the research team will analyse existing models of child protection capturing the perspectives of the families accessing the service and the staff that deliver the care. This will be done through in-depth interviews, surveys, and observation to find out about staff and families' experiences of services and find out whether the end results met the families and workers' expectations. These results will then be used to develop a best-practice model, setting out what works, what doesn't and what practices can be improved to protect against the neglect, abuse and maltreatment of children and other family members.

This study will provide a framework and principles by which child protection services can be evaluated and judged in an Australian context, and it will provide vital information for the further development and improvement of current and future services. It will also provide insights into the occupational health and safety implications for child protection workers that are associated with intense and sustained relationships with families. The project is expected to provide sustainable and more effective child protection services for families and children affected by physical and mental abuse and neglect.

**Project Title:** Model of care: A family focussed approach to promote child protection

**Funding has been set at:** \$83,124 ARC and \$50,194 Partner contribution

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