

# Research Directions

Office of Research Services

## ***'Finance First' for Success***

**Associate Professor Christine Halse from the Centre for Educational Research is exploring the relationship between financial literacy and socio-economic resilience with YWCA NSW, as part of their Finance First project which aims to build financial literacy skills for teachers, primary school students and parents.**



'The basis of the program is the theory that in disadvantaged communities socially and economically resilient individuals can be developed by implementing early interventions to improve financial skills, and that these individuals then contribute to making the whole community more resistant to finance-related issues and concerns', says Associate Professor Halse.

Through an empirical evaluation, Associate Professor Halse will test this theory, using the *Finance First* program as a case study. Three different elements of *Finance First* will be examined. These are the primary school program involving teacher training and curriculum resource development; the parents' education program aligned with the primary school program, and; the establishment of productive relationships with local stakeholders including the YWCA and NSW Department of Education and Training. The study is expected to shed light on the relationship between the development of financial literacy in primary school students and their parents and on their subsequent ability to cope with socio-economic pressures. The project will seek to show how to effectively implement financial literacy in primary schools in ways that build the financial literacy capacity of students and parents from disadvantaged communities.

The results of the study will inform the continuing management and refinement of policy for the *Finance First* program at YWCA, as well as contributing to scholarly debate on financial literacy, responsible citizenship and the building of socially and economically stable and successful communities in disadvantaged populations in Australia.

**Project Title:** Engaging and Transforming Communities: The *Finance First* project.

**Funding has been set at:** \$89,294

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