

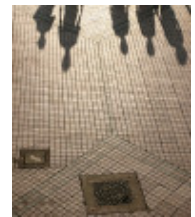


# Research Directions

Office of Research Services

## ***Tapping the Pulse of Youth***

**Dr Carol Reid from the School of Education and Professor Jock Collins, University of Technology Sydney, are exploring the attitudes and aspirations of the youth of South Western Sydney through a collaboration with the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship.**



'Sydney is one of the world's most multicultural cities, with over half of Sydney's population as first or second generation immigrants from most corners of the globe,' says Dr Reid. 'Issues related to youth in cosmopolitan Sydney have been in the spotlight in the last decade, particularly with regard to community relations between youth of minority immigrant backgrounds. Youth policy issues of crime, unemployment, education and socio-economic inequality have risen very high in the agenda of federal, state and local government authorities. Yet despite this interest, we lack research into the South Western Sydney region, which has a very high concentration of many different ethnic minority groups. This project will attempt to bridge this gap in knowledge by tapping into the pulse of cosmopolitan Sydney youth in South Western and Western Sydney and charting their experiences, particularly in the critical school-employment transition.'

The research team will survey and interview young people in South Western Sydney over a wide cross-section of different ethnic backgrounds including Indigenous, Lebanese, Vietnamese, Sudanese, Anglo-Celtic and Pacific Islander, in order to better understand their attitudes and interpretations of such concepts as 'race' relations and 'Australian values', and social issues such as inter-ethnic conflict, social networking, educational experiences and career aspirations. The investigators will focus not only on school students, but also on TAFE students, unemployed youth, apprentices, and young people who have successfully made the move from education to paid employment. The research will also employ young people from the various ethnic groups being surveyed, adding an important skills training and engagement element to the project.

The pilot study will allow the investigators to gauge the viability of a long-range study of youth attitudes and experiences in the South Western and Western suburbs of Sydney, and will improve knowledge of the social and economic relationships of young people in this area. This may ultimately assist in improving community and youth relations in South Western Sydney, making the area a greater place to live and work for all Australians, regardless of their age or cultural background.

**Project Title:** Tapping the Pulse of Youth in Cosmopolitan South Western Sydney: A pilot study 2007

**Funding has been set at:** \$33,000  
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