Developing Critical Practice

Dr Michael Houlbrook, Ms Peri O’Shea and Associate Professor Michael Darcy from the Social Justice Social Change Research Centre, together with Family Worker Training and Development Programme Inc., Western Sydney Community Forum and Community Resource Network (CRN) Inc., have been awarded a UWS Research Partnership Program grant to investigate results based accountability.

‘In partnership with a group involving three Western Sydney community organisations, this research investigates the development and application of critically reflective practice in Results Based Accountability (RBA). Recently the NSW State Government has made RBA a requirement for funding from its Community Services Grants Program, which has led to questions about the practices of community development workers’, says Dr Houlbrook. ‘This research aims to refine and assess a critically reflexive model of community development practice. One of the concerns addressed by this research is the need to give a critical perspective to RBA - allowing participants to examine the interests of stakeholders, as well as develop a means by which interests can be practically and ethically met’.

The project will provide insights that strengthen the capacity of workers and communities to develop accountabilities meeting their interests as well as those of the funding bodies.

**Project Title:** Developing Critical Practice in Results Based Accountability  
**Funding has been set at:** $12,364  
**Contact Details:** m.houlbrook@uws.edu.au  
http://www.uws.edu.au/sjsc  
May 2009

For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:  
http://www.uws.edu.au/research/ors/  
funding_opportunities/internal_research_grants