

# Research Directions

Office of Research Services

## ***Encouraging Indigenous Education***

Professor Dennis McInerney from the SELF Research Centre, is investigating ways to encourage remote Indigenous students to complete post-secondary education. This ARC Discovery project in collaboration with researchers from Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and the Center for Indian Education at Arizona State University is seeking ways to tackle the issue of underachievement of Indigenous students in remote locations.



This study will provide essential information for educators to develop innovative programs to enhance the recruitment and completion of post-secondary education for Indigenous students in remote locations. The researchers will look at factors such as remote Indigenous students' future goals, self-concept, achievement goals, learning and meta-cognitive strategies, and their perceptions of the usefulness of further education for realising their future goals. Researchers will also examine the ways in which these components are influenced by teachers, classrooms, the educational environment and the broader socio-cultural environment.

'There is virtually no research examining these factors in combination with issues like poverty, isolation, school environment and historico-social factors such as racism and lack of employment opportunities' said Professor McInerney. 'Unlocking the key cognitive and social/cultural issues in remote Indigenous communities may lead to Indigenous students' more effective participation in post-secondary education, enhancing the economic and social self sufficiency of these communities and reducing the likelihood of dependency on welfare. The provision of powerful Indigenous role models succeeding at post-secondary education for younger Indigenous students will encourage the school age students to be successful at school and beyond. It will be of great benefit to the remote Indigenous communities contributing to the study'.

**Project title:** *Securing the future: Optimising the success of remote Indigenous students at University and College in Australia and the United States.*

Funding has been set at: \$305,000.

Contact Details:  
[d.mcinerney@uws.edu.au](mailto:d.mcinerney@uws.edu.au)

Web Site:  
<http://self.uws.edu.au/>

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