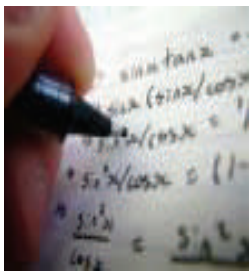


Research Directions

Office of Research Services

REACHing Student Potential



Professor Herbert Marsh, Dr Andrew Martin, and Professor Dennis McInerney from the SELF Research Centre are conducting research into Real Educational Achievement (REACH).. This ARC Discovery project aims to encourage students to attain real educational achievement by enhancing student motivation and self concept. It also looks at some very topical and compelling questions such as the impact of a teacher's gender on boys' and girls' motivation at school and how much of students' motivation is accounted for by their teacher and how much by other factors.

'Real educational achievement is the core business of schools and yet too many students fail to reach their academic potential' explained Dr Martin. 'REACH will explore not only academic grades but also attendance, aspirations, learning satisfaction, engagement and participation to explore student experiences as a whole'.

Students from Years 7 to 11 from eight schools will participate in the program. Three instruments will be used aimed at capturing and integrating the diversity of students' motivational and self-concept experience and as indicators of academic performance and engagement. These instruments are: the Student Motivation and Engagement Scale (SMES), the Self Description Questionnaire II (SDQ) and Transdisciplinary Measures that incorporate psychological research from other fields. The statistical analyses will be used to develop an over-arching framework which will be able to evaluate the effects of both self-concept and motivation on each other and on subsequent academic accomplishments.

'The outcome of the REACH project will act as a guide to support young Australians to achieve their full potential. Australian society as a whole will potentially gain substantial educational, economic, labour market, health and social benefits from the research' concluded Dr Martin.



Funding has been set at: \$285,000.

Project title: *Real Educational ACHievement – The REACH Project: Integrating Motivation and Self-concept to Optimise Students' Academic Outcomes at School.*

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February 2006.

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