



NATIONAL DRUG AND
ALCOHOL RESEARCH CENTRE

NATIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL RESEARCH CENTRE AWARDED MORE THAN \$3.6 MILLION TO FIGHT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

October 30 2009

Researchers from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales in Sydney have been awarded more than \$3.6 million in project grants and awards in NHMRC funding announced by Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon this week.

The grants include a \$1.9 million grant for a study of the impact of parental substance use on early infant development in 2,000 Australian families, led by Professor Richard Mattick.

Other successful NDARC project grants announced by the Minister include a multi-centre trial of face to face brief interventions for regular ecstasy users, led by Professor Jan Copeland; two separate studies on interventions to reduce alcohol-related harms among indigenous Australians led by A/Professor Chris Doran and A/Professor Anthony Shakeshaft; and an assessment of the prevalence of alcohol misuse among young Australians led by Dr Timothy Slade.

NDARC senior lecturer Dr Katherine Mills has been awarded a \$377,000 career development award to further her investigations into co-morbid substance use and post traumatic stress disorder.

Acting Director of NDARC, Associate Professor Alison Ritter has been awarded an inaugural NHMRC Partnership Grant: "Reducing alcohol related harm in Perth through the development of an agent based model on the internet."

A/Professor Ritter said that the Australian Government, through the NHMRC, was to be congratulated on its support of drug and alcohol research in Australia.

"Alcohol problems alone, cost Australia over \$15 billion a year. But there remain many unanswered questions about the prevalence of alcohol and substance use and about the most effective interventions. Every dollar spent on research provides further evidence to ensure both policy and treatments deliver maximum effectiveness."

NDARC's Professor Richard Mattick will lead a team of researchers in Sydney and Perth studying the impact of mothers and fathers' use of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs on infant development from the prenatal period through to birth and the early years of life.

"The impact of families' tobacco, alcohol and other drug use is not well understood," said Professor Mattick. "By including fathers' substance use in the study we aim to get a better understanding of how exposure to a variety of factors, from the pre-birth period onward, impacts on child development."

Professor Jan Copeland will lead a multicentre trial to assess the impact of face to face interventions on helping regular ecstasy users reduce their dependence on the drug.

“Ecstasy is one of the few drugs in Australia that has been increasing in use over the past decade,” said Professor Copeland. “Yet despite dramatic increases in the prevalence of ecstasy use, researchers have yet to develop effective intervention programs for regular ecstasy users.”

The announcement of the successful grants follows the announcement this week by the Australian Research Council of a \$760,000 grant for NDARC to assess the impact of parents introducing children to alcohol in early adolescence, in a study led by Professor Mattick.

A second ARC grant will fund a team led by Dr Anton Clifford and Associate Professor Anthony Shakeshaft to investigate community and family-based interventions for alcohol misuse among indigenous Australians.

More information on the grants can be found on the NHMRC and ARC websites:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/rounds/index.htm#proj>

<http://www.arc.gov.au/>

Media Inquiries: Marion Downey 612 9385 0180 (work) 0401 713 850 (mob)

m.downey@unsw.edu.au

www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au

NHMRC AND ARC PROJECT GRANTS AND AWARDS: COMMENCING 2010

NHMRC PROJECT GRANTS:

Dr Timothy Slade, Professor Maree Teesson, Professor Robert Krueger, Ms Louise Mewton
Alcohol use disorders in young adults: "Youthful epidemic" or diagnostic bias?
\$193,650

A/Professor Christopher Doran , Professor Eric Vos, Professor Yvonne Cadet-James,
A/Professor Anthony Shakeshaft, A/Professor Komla Haswell-Elkins
Economic evaluation of interventions to reduce the burden of harm from alcohol misuse in Indigenous Australians
\$568,500

Professor Richard Mattick, Professor Steve Allsop, Professor Jakob Najman, Dr Delyse Hutchinson, Professor Elizabeth Elliott, Dr Lucy Burns, Dr Susan Jacobs
Impact of Parental Alcohol, tobacco and Other Substance Use on Infant Development and Family Functioning
\$1,910,470

Professor Jan Copeland, Dr Melissa Norberg, Dr Leanne Hides, Dr Rebecca McKetin
The Ecstasy Check-Up: A multi-site trial of a brief intervention for ecstasy use among regular ecstasy users
\$446,250

A/Prof Anthony Shakeshaft , A/Professor Komla Tsey, Dr Anton Clifford, Ms Miranda Rose, Dr Julaine Allan
The feasibility and effectiveness of a family-based intervention for Indigenous

Australians with alcohol dependence

\$212,500

NHMRC CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD:

Dr Katherine Mills.

Epidemiology, classification and treatment of comorbid substance use and post traumatic stress disorders

\$377,000

NHMRC PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

A/P Alison Ritter, A/P Pascal Perez, Michael Livingston

Reducing alcohol related health harms in Perth through the development of an agent based model on the internet.

ARC DISCOVERY GRANT:

Prof RP Mattick; Prof JM Najman; Dr K Kypri; Dr TN Slade; Dr LE Vogl; Dr D Hutchinson

Can parents teach their children to drink alcohol responsibly? Or, is one drop a drop too many?

2010 : \$170,000, 2011 : \$175,000, 2012 : \$175,000, 2013 : \$120,000, 2014 : \$120,000

ARC LINKAGE GRANT:

Dr Anton C Clifford, A/Prof Anthony Shakeshaft, Dr Julaine M Allan, A/Prof Christopher M Doran, A/Prof Komla Tsey, Dr Andrew R MacQueen

Assessing the effectiveness of a Community Reinforcement and Family Training intervention for alcohol misuse with Indigenous Australians

2010 \$40,000.00, 2011 \$40,000.00,