

# Research Directions

Office of Research Services

## ***Enhancing Access and Equity***

Associate Professor Christine Woodrow, Associate Professor Christine Johnston, Dr Jean Ashton, and Associate Professor June Wangmann, School of Education, together with Blue Mountains City Council, were awarded a UWS Research Partnership Program grant to develop benchmarks for early childhood education access, equity and starting school developmental outcomes.



'Research evidence clearly indicates that support for children in the early years has greater benefits than remedial or "second chance" interventions later in children's lives. Poor experiences at this critical stage can result in antisocial behaviour, juvenile delinquency and mental health problems in later life' says Associate Professor Woodrow. 'Despite the recognition of the importance of early childhood education, recent statistics indicate that approximately 50% of children across Australia have no experience of formal early childhood services.'

The parents of approximately 150 children attending school in the Blue Mountains for the first time in 2006 were invited to participate in the study. Parents were asked to respond to a survey and a number of them were interviewed in depth. Data collected from parents focused on their perceptions of the various early childhood settings they have used and the enablers or barriers to using these services.

Results from the study will be used to inform a community development strategy targeted to families with young children in the Blue Mountains area to achieve social sustainability. This project was designed as a pilot for a larger study which will determine the critical pathways to early childhood education throughout the Blue Mountains City Council area.

**Project Title:** *Barriers and Facilitators of Early Childhood Education in the Blue Mountains: Enhancing Access and Equity*

Funding has been set at: \$10,000.  
February 2007.

### Contact Details:

[c.woodrow@uws.edu.au](mailto:c.woodrow@uws.edu.au)

<http://www.uws.edu.au/school/education>

For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:  
<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/fundingopps/internalgrants>