



# Research Directions

Office of Research Services

## ***Enabling a Community***

**Dr Lesley Kuhn, School of Management, and Dr Robert Woog, School of Education, have received funding from the Sir Ian Potter Foundation to research the effectiveness of the Mt Druitt Enablers Program.**



*Graduation Enablers Program  
2004, Mt Druitt*

The Mt Druitt Enablers Program was established by the Chain Reaction Foundation to support the development of natural leaders within the local community. The Program involves culturally and linguistically diverse participants in weekly communal learning events designed to strengthen and develop them into empowered 'enablers' for the community. Participants explore cross-cultural understanding, new learning opportunities, and the promotion of family relationships, among other topics.

The Enablers will be interviewed to find out about how the Program benefited them and to find out what difference they believe they can make to the community as a result of their involvement in the program. One of main objectives of the study is to uncover how this process of change occurred and to do this researchers will draw on 'complexity science'.

'Complexity Science is an approach that enables us to describe individuals, organisations and communities in all their dynamic and evolving processes, rather than in predetermined, predictable and mechanistic ways' said Dr Kuhn. 'An understanding of change and people's social and personal development means we learn not only about what they know but about how they will use this knowledge in the future. The research findings will have specific applicability to the Enablers group but may also be generalisable to other social organisations'.

One outcome of this research will be the strengthening of the Program's capacity to anticipate, apprehend and heighten its positive potential .

**Project title:** *Inquiry into Community Enabling: A Review of the Mt Druitt Enablers Program.*

Funding has been set at: \$19,420.

### Contact Details

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### Web Site:

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/acadorg/schools/management>  
<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/acadorg/schools/education>  
<http://chainreaction.org.au/>

May 2006