



Research Directions

Office of Research Services

TAKING THE FIRST STEP

Dr Debra Costley and Associate Professor Steve Wilson, School of Education, have received funding to research 'The First Step' Work for the Dole Project from the Fairfield Community Resource Centre. 'The First Step' offers individuals currently receiving parenting payments, the opportunity to develop their skills and confidence in order to help them re-enter the workforce.



'Our project is planned in three phases' explained Dr Costley. 'Participants will initially be interviewed to ascertain their expectations and hopes for achievements by being involved in the project. Their self esteem and self concept will be tested at the beginning and the end of the project, enriching the data gathered through interviews. The impact of the project will be tested using a questionnaire developed by the Self-Concept Enhancement and Learning Facilitation Centre for this purpose'.

During phase two, participants and their work place supervisor will be interviewed to evaluate all aspects of participants' experiences.

The final phase will include interviews and testing of participants to establish the impact of the initiative on the individual's work readiness and self concept after taking part in the project.



The findings will culminate in recommendations for future development of the 'The First Step' project as well as a methodology for evaluating the effectiveness of such initiatives.

Funding has been set at \$18,437.

Research Partner: *Fairfield Community Resource Centre.*

Project Title: *The First Step Work for the Dole Project Research*

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