



An RCT of an Education Re-Engagement Program for At-Risk Youth

Each time we prevent young people from dropping out, we increase their chance of being employed and healthy, and decrease their chance of committing crimes and becoming a social burden.

This innovative Australian Research Council (ARC) funded investigation will determine the best and most cost-effective way to prevent young people from dropping out of school.

20% of Australians fail to attain a year 12 or equivalent certificate, often for preventable reasons. Dropouts are more likely to be unemployed, have psychological, social and health problems, and end up in prison.

The project will conduct a gold-standard, randomised-control trial to determine the best and most cost-effective way to help young people, aged 11-14, re-engage with school when they become at risk for dropping out. It has the potential to influence implementation of programs and policy related to youth dropout, and to promote youth economic, social, and physical well-being.

The project will seek to answer three questions:

- How beneficial is a state-of-the-art program targeting academic achievement, social and emotional learning, and social issues?
- What components are most essential to the program?
- What are the mediators and moderators of change?

This proposal presents a valuable opportunity to unite a highly successful and prosocial non-profit organisation (Bill Crews Charitable Trust) with a group of world-class experts in education and youth development at ACU.

The project targets the ARC priority area 'Health' and specifically, 'better models of health care and services that improve outcomes, reduce disparities for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, increase efficiency, and provide greater value for a given expenditure'. The project targets this Australian Science and Research priority by seeking to reduce disparities for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, increasing efficiency of interventions, and providing greater value for a given expenditure.



Project Title: An RCT of an Education Re-Engagement Program for At-Risk Youth

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