responding
ACU National is committed to conducting research which is relevant, responsive to community need and supportive of our Mission. We seek to undertake research which assists communities, government and non-government agencies and industries to effectively and creatively improve services, health care and education, and to make the world a better and more humane place in which to live.

In 2007, our research activities focused primarily on health, education, sport and exercise science, environmental science, community welfare, psychology, social science and the humanities. In keeping with our Catholic character and history, the University has world-class research strengths in early Christian studies, theology and philosophy.

While much of our research was conducted in designated flagships, centres and institutes, outstanding contributions were also made by academics across all our campuses. Importantly, their specialised research informed our teaching and learning activities; and their expertise inspired our students and attracted industry and media attention.

A great strength of ACU National is its capability to conduct research and link with partners across multiple geographic areas nationally and internationally. Much of our research is funded by external organisations, industry and all levels of government. Many academics conducted joint research with colleagues from other universities in 2007, enabling us to form valuable collaborations and strengthen our impact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research income sources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth government</td>
<td>1,190,538</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private industry and other</td>
<td>1,202,913</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other public sector</td>
<td>399,349</td>
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<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,792,801</strong></td>
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<table>
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<th>Research outputs*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Books, authored research</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book chapters</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles in refereed journals</td>
<td>122</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refereed conference papers</td>
<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>285</strong></td>
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*2006 figures. Research publication data for 2007 being collected during the first quarter of 2008 for transmission to Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.
“The nexus between research and teaching provides the opportunity to answer important questions about our practice, our engaging of students in the enterprise of conscientious thought, examination of reality, and self-examination.”

Psychology Education and Development Postgraduate Course Coordinator Senior Lecturer Dr Terry Bowles

Research inspiring teaching and learning

“As a teaching tool, research can provide an infinite number of examples of lateral thinking, tolerance of diversity and a need to strive for excellence in thinking. A socially responsible and just, enquiring mind is best facilitated by incorporating knowledge of current and definitive research into teaching. Challenges to common beliefs, standard textbook statements and contemporary issues are best explored using the objectivity of evidence-based research.”

Exercise Science (VIC) Director of the Centre of Physical Activity Across the Lifespan (COPAAL) Associate Professor Geraldine Naughton

“My research provides me with a framework for the development of up-to-date course material and research-related student projects. I enhance the link between research, teaching and learning through the use of research findings in my teaching, utilising research to model ways of thinking, carrying out collaborative research with students, undertaking research into teaching practice and student learning, and getting research ideas from student questions.”

Faculty of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean (Research, Research Training and Partnerships) Dr Jan Seruga

“It would be hypocritical to research and write on the importance of the psychosocial learning environment as a predictor of student outcomes without providing a high-quality learning environment for my undergraduate and postgraduate students. My research field continually informs my teaching and vice-versa. I have frequently used my own research papers to illustrate research to students. This is especially so in the educational research units I teach.”

School of Education Reader Associate Professor Jeffrey Dorman

“There can be no scholarship without research … Through my teaching I try to act as a model researcher/learner; one who is sceptical yet open to new ideas, knowledgeable but humbly aware of ignorance, and able to express firm ideas without dogmatism.”

Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Coordinator and Associate Professor in Literature and Cultural Studies Associate Professor Dr Simon Ryan

“My research and scholarship have been with Indigenous peoples, the marginalised, early childhood contexts, rural communities, schools and international collaborations … When students graduate from ACU National they will engage with peoples and communities in the day-to-day events that impact upon and influence our lives. It is imperative that they come to appreciate the critical interrelatedness of engaging with communities, asking the relevant research questions, learning with others and then sharing their gained knowledge.”

Institute for Advancing Community Engagement Clemente Australia National Leader Associate Professor Peter Howard

“Preparing teachers for dealing with the social, emotional, behavioural and learning needs of children and young people is a fundamental requirement for ensuring successful educational outcomes for all stakeholders. As both a university teacher and registered psychologist, the passion which drives my focus in both research and practice is a desire to advocate for the needs of the most vulnerable in society and promote social inclusion.”

Education Lecturer Ms Debra Mainwaring-Betts

“The mathematics education team at ACU National has traditionally linked its research to the classroom experience of pre-service and in-service teachers and their students. … This research and our more recent work on students’ rational number learning continue to provide our students with clear understandings of emerging knowledge in the field, positioning them well to share this knowledge with their current and future school communities.”

Mathematics and Literacy Education Research Flagship Director Professor Doug Clarke
Informing education

A Best Paper Award for *The challenge of attracting and keeping quality teachers in Australian schools* was awarded to the Head of the School of Arts and Sciences (NSW and ACT) Dr Tony Stokes and economics lecturer Ms Sarah Wright at the 2007 International Business and Economics Research conference and Teaching and Learning conference in Las Vegas.

ACU National Centre for Lifelong Learning Director Professor Judith Chapman and her colleagues edited three new books in the International Series on Lifelong Learning.

The Department of Education, Science and Training awarded ACU National funding for an Indigenous education project *Enabling home school transition: Using Indigenous students’ oral language as the foundation for literacy and numeracy learning and teaching.*

Faculty of Education Research Associate Dean (Research Training and Partnerships) Associate Professor Elizabeth Warren and Mathematics Literacy Education Research Flagship Senior Lecturer Dr Janelle Young received $87,460 over 20 months to extend their research into literacy and numeracy. Their research involves the Flagship, Cairns Diocese and Independent Schools Queensland and the new funding has allowed a Catholic primary school on Thursday Island and a public school at Yarrabah to become involved in the study.

Research from the Faculty of Education included seeking perceptions from employers about credentials that are appropriate for Australia’s workforce for the 21st century. A Mathematics and Literacy Education Flagship funded project focused on using Computer Algebra Systems (CAS) to enhance the teaching of mathematical modelling. As part of the project, the Flagship worked with seven schools in both Brisbane and Canberra.

The School of Education (ACT) took part in the network of state and territory hub organisations of the National Centre for Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education in Rural and Regional Australia (SiMER). Funded by the Department of Transport and Regional Services, the network has continued throughout 2007 to conduct many research and professional development activities for primary, secondary and tertiary educators.

School of Education (Vic) Associate Professor Joseph Zajda was awarded a Queensland Department of Education, Training and Arts and Eidos Science and Training grant of $82,500 to conduct a research project on *The importance of qualifications – credentialism in the 21st century*. Team members included Associate Professor Zajda and Professor Philip Clarkson of the School of Education (Vic), and Faculty of Education Research, Research Training and Partnerships Associate Dean Associate Professor Elizabeth Warren, along with Queensland University of Technology Professor Carmel Diezman.
"A great strength of ACU National is its capability to conduct research and link with partners across multiple geographic areas nationally and internationally."

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and International) Professor Peter Wilson
Improve health and well-being

Initiatives and activities of the University’s Centre of Physical Activity Across the Lifespan (CoPAAL) resulted in an increased number of research grants, publications, research students and projects undertaken with sporting and health care industry partners.

The National Centre for Clinical Outcomes Research (NaCCOR) was established to focus on the research and scholarly activities within the Faculty of Health Sciences to improve health care, and to contribute to public debate and influence policy. The Centre was designed to be a ‘virtual network’ embedded in the three Schools of Nursing and Midwifery.

Centre Director Professor Sandy Middleton and UNSW colleagues were granted $476,350 by the National Health and Medical Research Council to conduct a Randomised controlled trial to evaluate a model of comprehensive stroke care.

In partnership with St Vincent’s Health Melbourne, the University announced the appointment of Dr Linda Worrall-Carter, pictured on page 28, to the newly created role of Chair in Nursing Research. Dr Worrall-Carter’s time will be shared between the School of Nursing and Midwifery (Victoria) at ACU National’s Melbourne Campus and St Vincent’s Hospital, where she has established a Clinical Nursing Research Unit.

A study by School of Psychology Associate Professor and Reader Dr Peter Rendell showed dangerous effects of ecstasy use on memory. In the study, published in the journal Psychopharmacology in late 2007, Dr Rendell and colleagues including Dr Julie Henry of UNSW found that even infrequent ecstasy use has a significant negative impact on a part of memory function called prospective memory.

The Centre of Physical Activity Across the Lifespan (COPAAL) received an ARC Linkage Grant for Tracking the musculoskeletal health and performance of talented adolescent female athletes. Other major research included The relationship between musculoskeletal screening and injuries in athletes at the NSW Institute of Sport, in partnership with the Institute and University of Ballarat. Other research included Why families choose not to participate in child obesity research, with Murdoch Research Institute, and Profiling physiological and psychological health of apprentice jockeys.

Enhancing human services

A report providing a unique perspective on children’s experiences of homelessness, Finding their way home: Children’s Experiences of Homelessness, was prepared by an Institute of Child Protection Studies research team. It was commissioned by the ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services with funding through the Australian Government’s Supported Accommodation and Assistance (SAAP) Program.

The Supporting children and families affected by alcohol or other drug use study is being carried out by the Institute of Child Protection Studies and Anglicare’s young carers support organisation CYCLOPS ACT. The study will provide young people with the opportunity to have their say about what their parents’ drug or alcohol use means to them, what roles they assume in their families and what kind of support they need.

“Our study aims to not only better understand children’s experiences but also uncover how to provide support services that actually make a difference in these children’s lives. As such, we will work closely with a range of support organisations on this project – including the drug and alcohol sector and services for families and youth – to identify the best ways of assisting children and families living under these circumstances.”

ACU National Institute of Child Protection Studies Director Dr Morag McArthur

ACU National and Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn announced a new study funded by the Australian Capital Territory Government, to give a voice to children living with a drug or alcohol dependent parent.

A joint research report, Recovering from the 2003 Canberra bushfire: A work in progress, found that many people affected by the 2003 bushfires believe their local communities and neighbourhoods were strengthened after the fires and that the Bushfire Recovery Centre at Lyons became a lifeline to those who had lost their homes or had suffered other losses. It was conducted by researchers at ACU National, the University of Canberra and the ACT Department of Health, and funded by Emergency Management Australia, under their Research and Innovation Program, with support from the ACT Government.
The research highlighted the need for focused strategies to optimise mental health outcomes for people affected by future disasters.

Research into workplace counselling dispelled the myth that Aussie men are reluctant to seek professional support in dealing with personal issues. The research was conducted by Dr Robert Compton in the School of Business and Informatics (NSW) in partnership with consulting firm Davidson Trahaire Corpsych.

Professor Shurlee Swain of the School of Arts and Sciences was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and obtained an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grant to research the early history of the Family Court of Australia, with University of Melbourne academic Ms Helen Rhoades. A total of $350,000 has been awarded over three years.

In October 2007, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Research Centre for Social, Emotional, Cognitive and Behavioural Development hosted a well-attended conference *Dealing with diversity in a complex, global world* at the University’s Melbourne Campus.

Understanding and managing eating disorders in the school setting, a paper by postgraduate psychology student Bridie Hellings and Senior Lecturer in Psychology Dr Terry Bowles was published in the *Australian Journal of Guidance & Counselling*, volume 17, number 1, 2007.

**Ethics and other expertise**

ACU National and the Forum of Australian Catholic Institutes of Theology (FACIT) Taskforce announced results of a nine-year study, led by ACU National, into enrolment trends in undergraduate and postgraduate theology courses. Overall results pointed to a surge in postgraduate enrolments over the past decade.

FACIT member institutions include ACU National, Broken Bay Institute, Catholic Institute of Sydney, Catholic Theological College Melbourne, Catholic Theological College of South Australia, Jesuit Theological College, John Paul II Institute of Marriage and the Family, St Paul’s Theological College, University of Notre Dame Australia and Yarra Theological Union.

ACU National formally launched its Institute of Legal Studies (ILS) with a rare Melbourne lecture by international human rights expert Professor Cathleen Kaveny, the John P Murphy Foundation Professor of Law and Professor of Theology at Notre Dame Law School in Indiana, USA, who spoke on *Hope, Solidarity and Human Rights*.

The 10th anniversary of the founding of the University’s Centre for Early Christian Studies was celebrated with a state reception in Sydney. A major ARC grant was received in 2007 for researching *Poverty and welfare in late antiquity*. The centre is liaising with Japanese colleagues researching a similar project.

“It is interesting to note that more than a third of people receiving counselling in the workplace are male. It demonstrates that Australian men are willing to accept professional help for their problems – or even seek it out themselves – if it is made available.”

Head of the School of Business and Informatics (NSW) Dr Robert Compton
Much media attention was generated by The Spirit of Generation Y: Young people’s spirituality in a changing Australia, a book by Quality of Life and Social Justice Flagship Director Associate Professor Ruth Webber, Research Fellow Rev Dr Michael Mason and Monash University’s Dr Andrew Singleton, and published by John Garratt Publishing.

ACU National and St Vincent’s and Mater Health in Sydney renewed their support for the Plunkett Centre for Ethics, pledging to contribute more than $1.3 million over the next five years. The Plunkett Centre explores moral and ethical dimensions of the health care profession.

Environmental scientist Dr Vaughan Monamy received a grant of $185,552 from the NSW Environmental Trust to research Mosquito control, saltmarsh and insectivorous bats: seeking a balance; and funding from the NSW Roads and Transport Authority for a project entitled Ameliorating vehicle-marsupial collisions: a role for chemical repellents.

Dr Catriona Mackenzie from Macquarie University was selected as the winner of the $10,000 2007 Australian Catholic University Eureka Prize for Research in Ethics. Her work, Relational autonomy and moral imagination, explores the concept of individualism and its effect on the well-being of society as a whole.

“In winning this award, Dr Mackenzie has joined an eminent group of researchers who have not only contributed to the development of improved ethical standards in Australia, but also captured the spirit of ACU National’s own social justice and ethics mission through their research.”

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Sheehan AO