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Exploring the Effects of Boarding School on Academic and Non-academic Outcomes: A Longitudinal Study of Boarding and Day Students.

In partnership with The University of Sydney, the Australian Boarding Schools Association's research project is one of only twelve proposals nationwide in the education classification to receive significant funding from the Australian Research Council and will commence later this year.

Project Summary

There is little large-scale, Australian and international research assessing the effects of boarding school on academic and non-academic outcomes. This research project seeks to examine the effects of boarding school over and above other factors that might explain student outcomes. Through concurrent assessment of day students in the same schools, the study will inform academic and non-academic development for all students.

Findings of this project will assist policy, pedagogy, and pastoral care directed at enhancing academic and non-academic pathways at the school and sector level, and centrally position the Australian Boarding Schools Association as a leading researcher in boarding education.

A video explaining this project in more detail can be downloaded from the ABSA website:

http://www.boarding.org.au/site/community_news.cfm?nwsID=88

Outcomes and Measures Assessed in the Project

Academic Outcomes

- Achievement
- Achievement-related behaviours
- Motivation and engagement
- Academic buoyancy and adaptability
- Student approaches to learning
- School, and boarding house climate

Non-Academic Outcomes

- Well-being
- General self-esteem
- Interpersonal relationships
- Life satisfaction
- Personality
- Background and general characteristics

Researchers

Assoc. Professor Andrew Martin (*International Senior Research Fellow*) – Chief Investigator

Dr Paul Ginns (*Lecturer in Educational Psychology*) – Chief Investigator

Dr Timothy Hawkes (*Chairman, ABSA*) – Partner Investigator

Brad Papworth (*Australian Postgraduate Award – Industry; ABSA*) – Doctoral Student

Benefits to Participating Schools

This project represents considerable research value to participating schools, each receiving a report at the conclusion of the project including:

- ★ effects of boarding school on key academic and non-academic outcomes
- ★ differences in these effects as a function of gender, year-level, etc
- ★ factors that predict boarding school students' academic and non-academic outcomes over time
- ★ factors distinct to individual boarding houses affecting academic and non-academic outcomes
- ★ the role of boarding school in students' educational transitions
- ★ implications of findings for boarding schools, pedagogy, pastoral care and policy

Expressions of Interest

This research project will involve at least 20 schools from across Australia and 5 schools from the United Kingdom. Over the next three years these schools will survey whole-school populations on two occasions, to yield invaluable findings for each school as well as the sector. Expressions of interest are sought from schools (comprising boarding students) who wish to be part of this research project. Those schools who have already registered their interest need to complete and return the attached sheet. Please contact Brad Papworth for further details: b.papworth@edfac.usyd.edu.au or (02) 9683 8490.

Australian Boarding Schools Association Ltd.

PO Box 279 Virginia QLD 4014 P+ 61 7 3863 4885 F+ 61 7 3863 2881 E absa@boarding.org.au

www.boarding.org.au