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High-risk drinking among young people the focus of new study

The Burnet Institute and the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University have been awarded an Australian Research Council grant to model the impact of interventions targeting high-risk drinking among young Australians.

The \$430,000 grant will enable researchers to improve the understanding of the individual, social, cultural, economic and geographical factors that shape heavy drinking and related problems.

The study will use mixed research methods including sophisticated modelling techniques to allow the testing of the impact of various interventions on the prevalence of alcohol-related problems.

Deputy Head of the Centre for Population Health at Burnet, Associate Professor Paul Dietze said alcohol use is a major contributing factor to many social and health problems among young Australians and further research into the factors that shape heavy drinking was still needed.

“Current national monitoring systems provide clear evidence of serious and substantial social and health problems associated with drinking,” Associate Professor Dietze said.

“The research findings from this study will provide evidence that will be really useful in developing effective policies to test the impact of various interventions and address these significant issues.”

According to Associate Professor Dietze, previous quantitative research has been restricted to descriptions of individual drinking patterns, while qualitative studies have been localised investigations.

The models developed from this project will assist all three tiers of government in helping shape the future direction of policy.

The three-year study begins in 2011.

To arrange an interview with Associate Professor Dietze please contact:

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