Suzan Hirsch, Faculty of Education:
Research data indicated that many boys are not only underperforming in literacy, but are also disengaged with reading. A reading mentoring program called Rugby League Reads was introduced to schools, with the aim of shifting the negative attitudes about reading by using the students’ self-identified heroes.

Dr Pre De Silva, School of Arts and Sciences:
In Australia, CO₂ emissions per year due to the (Portland) cement manufacturing process is more than eight million tonnes. This research has the ultimate goal of finding an alternative binder system. It has the potential to cut down CO₂ emission as well as aid in recycling industrial wastes, bringing both environmental and economic benefits to the international community.

Professor Sue Kildea, School of Midwifery:
Caesarean section can cause increased risk of infection, increased recovery time and other serious complications. There are indications the sterile water injections used to ease back pain during labour may also decrease the rate of caesarean sections. This study is investigating whether sterile water injections can decrease caesarean section rates and improve outcomes for women and their babies.

Dr David Greene, School of Exercise Science:
Jockeys place themselves at risk of compromised musculoskeletal health on a daily basis. This project allows us to understand more about an apprentice jockey’s musculoskeletal health, growth, maturation, physical activity, injury status, and calcium and energy intake, and this helps us profile the physiological status of apprentice jockeys.

Professor Sandy Middleton, National Centre for Clinical Outcomes Research (NaCCOR):
Recovery after a stroke can be significantly improved when health professionals are supported to implement protocols that ensure consistent and prompt clinical management of three factors – fever, blood sugar levels and swallowing. Patients admitted with an acute stroke to hospitals that implemented these protocols were found to be 16 per cent more likely to be alive and independent after 90 days. These results are better than any current drug or treatment for stroke.

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... by giving children the best possible education

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... by looking after future generations

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... by creating better outcomes for individuals

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... by enhancing health practices

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... by caring for our environment

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Dr Noah Riseman, School of Arts and Sciences:
Indigenous people have served in the Australian armed forces in all conflicts and peacetimes since the Boer War. By studying both archival documents and oral history interviews of Australian Indigenous service personnel and veterans from 1946 to 2003, I am working to create a picture of the involvement and experiences of Indigenous service personnel. I aim to learn about the wider impact of military service on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ex-service personnel, their families and their communities, as well as the impact of their service on the attitudes of their non-Indigenous compatriots.

... by researching the past to find answers for the future

Associate Professor Mary Coloe, School of Theology:
Genesis 1 and its connotations that humans are central to the universe has helped shape Western attitudes towards nature, and some have used these texts to justify policies that exploit natural resources with no regard to environmental and social consequences. We are re-examining key biblical texts in order change religious attitudes towards the environment. Science and religion need to work together to actively promote greater environmental responsibility.

... by examining the link between religion and the environment

Associate Professor Peter Howard, Institute for Advancing Community Engagement:
Clemente provides accredited university courses for people struggling with homelessness, mental illness and long-term unemployment. Its effectiveness was revealed recently in a new study which showed significant improvements in health, housing, financial and social outlooks among participants. This university program is transformational in nature in that it brings about new learning opportunities and new futures for people.

... by building new futures for the less fortunate

Dr Robert Paddle, School of Psychology:
The last known Tasmanian tiger, or thylacine, died on 7 September 1936 in Hobart Zoo. While its demise can be attributed to hunting and habitat destruction by European settlers, it has long been suspected that disease may also have contributed. In examining this theory, my findings may also help reduce the rapid decline of the Tasmania Devil, which is currently being decimated by devil facial tumour disease – a devastating disease which is sweeping through the population.

... by researching the past to find answers for the future

Professor Julie Hides, School of Physiotherapy:
Lower back pain is common in both astronauts and bed rest subjects. We can learn a lot from space research and apply it here on Earth. I worked with European Space Agency physiotherapist Gunda Lambrecht to develop a program that taught the bed rest subjects to contract the specific back muscles that atrophy without gravity – and build up endurance. This is part of the program now used by Gunda to rehabilitate the astronauts when they return to Earth.

... by looking to space for medical breakthroughs

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