

Title: Approaches and Methods of Practice in Early Intervention in Autism and Related Disorders	
Institution	Division of Psychology School of Health Sciences RMIT University
Researchers	Ms Helen Chau, Dr Amanda Richdale (senior supervisor) and Dr Susana Gavidia-Payne (supervisor)
Contact Details	(03) 9843 6283 (W) helen.chau@dhs.vic.gov.au
Outline of Research	This is a PhD program (Part-time) Study 1. Questionnaire survey of early intervention for young children with an autism spectrum disorder. Both EI centres and home-based ABA programs are being investigated. Study 2. Longitudinal (12 months) study of individual children with an autism spectrum disorder. Children from both EI and home-based ABA programs are being followed. Study 3. Five-year follow-up of EI centres and home-based ABA programs.
Findings to date	1. Initial survey (Study 1) of EI centres and home-based ABA programs completed in 1999 and reported at National Autism conference. Home-based ABA programs and EI programs have differential effects on children's developmental outcomes. 2. Eight children have currently completed Study 2 and outcomes for 5 cases have been reported across Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Victorian Chapter) conference 2001, Autism Research Forum 2004, and Early Childhood Matters Conference (DHS) 2003. Children's outcomes are variable and language appears to be the most important indicator thus far. 3. Study 3 is ongoing. So far 21 EI centres have returned their questionnaires, but only 11 ABIA families have replied compared with 50 in Study1. Data are being collated.
Expected start and finish dates	Finish 2006