

## ACERA Project: 0701

1. **Project Title:** Improving the efficiency of inspection interventions in quarantine risk assessment.
2. **Theme:** Communication and decision making
3. **Rationale:**

Inspection of quarantine risks takes place in a regime of training, certification and continual assessment of inspectors who use standard procedures, and technical and computer based support. Assessors use a variety of formal and informal cues and sources of information, generally based on pattern matching. However the attitudes, motivation, biases and mutual trust of inspectors influence the overall performance of inspection systems, especially in terms of the balance between protection of society and the satisfaction of individuals.

This project will use carefully designed interview, questionnaire and focus group methods to explore attitudes, opinions and biases of those involved in inspection systems. The results will contribute to a full cognitive analysis for the function of quarantine inspection and assessment. The study will employ domain analysis; activity analysis; interactions analysis; social system analysis and competencies analysis. This work will link with current research on the use of information theory and signal detection to assess the ways in which risks are perceived by inspectors and how decisions are made about degree of threat, how risks of false positives are handled, what cues are employed and so on.

4. **Outputs:**
  - An analysis of the social and psychological inputs to decision making in airport or seaport surveillance systems
  - Guidelines for designing surveillance systems that take advantage of activities, interactions, social systems and training to minimize false negative rates and improve efficiency.
5. **Time frame:** Commencing: *January, 2007* Finishing: *December, 2007*
6. **Project Leader(s):**

Title	Name	Organisation
Prof.	John Wilson	UNSW

## 7. Resources

	06/07	07/08
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>	<b>\$63,000</b>

## 8. End Users: AQIS