

Parents see sibling fighting as normal

2 June 2014

Three out of four Australian parents are concerned about their children fighting yet claim their kids get along well, a University of Queensland study has found.

Research by UQ's Parenting and Family Support Centre also found that parents view smacking as the least acceptable method to deal with children fighting.

UQ researcher John Pickering said that while parents were worried about fighting and aggression among siblings, they also viewed it as normal.

"At the same time, they're concerned enough to say that they want help controlling it," Mr Pickering said.

He said parents' concerns were matched by international research showing that early sibling aggression, when not dealt with, can lead to ongoing learning, social and mental health problems.

"Although some siblings seem to get along better than others, parents find conflict between their children a great source of distress and are often unsure whether to get involved or remain on the sidelines," Mr Pickering said.

"The problem is that if sibling conflict continues into adulthood, it can be the source of lifelong problems.

"The research shows that the outcomes for children subjected to sibling aggression are as adverse as outcomes for children who have to deal with aggression from their peers.

"It's an area that definitely needs more work."

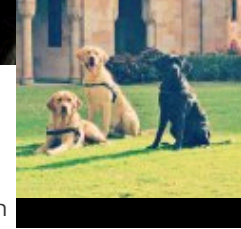
The findings are part of a wider, ongoing study that is a world-first trial of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program in managing sibling conflict.

Parents seeking help to manage their children's fighting, aggression, anger or hostility towards each other can participate in the program free of charge, starting this month (May).

Mr Pickering said the trial, for parents of siblings who have children aged between three and 10 years with no more than four years age difference between children, offered parents a rare opportunity.

"Despite the fact that several studies have shown that parents can play an active role in their children's relationships, very few evidence-based programs here or overseas focus on siblings or sibling conflict," Mr Pickering said.

UQ & COMMUNITY

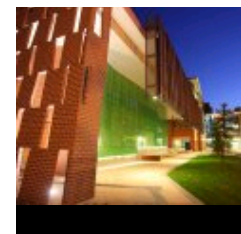


Guide dogs prove to be model students at UQ 31 July 2014



Beautiful UQ campus 'number one' 15 May 2014

UQ supports global development activities 2 May 2014



University

collaboration aims to boost Ipswich education options 11 April 2014



Major roadworks to start for Sir Fred Schonell Drive 31 March 2014

Queensland's dark history exposed 28 March 2014

" This trial will be an opportunity to merge what we know about the importance of parental involvement in sibling relations with more than 35 years of research into Triple P.' "

To register for the trial visit: <https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/siblings/>

For further information contact PFSC media manager Paddy Hintz on 0431 706822 or John Pickering on 07 33460002

Share link:

<http://tinyurl.com/kr4adqe>

Subscribe to the UQ News weekly newsletter

Subscribe



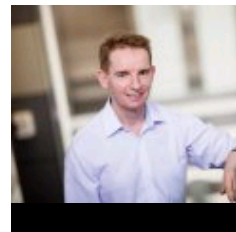
Boggo Rd bus solution 28
March 2014



A shocking past at Grace's Table 20
March 2014

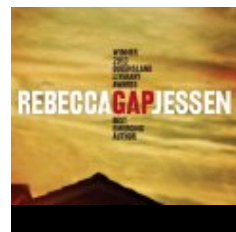
New Deputy Chancellor elected 11 March 2014

RECENT HEADLINES



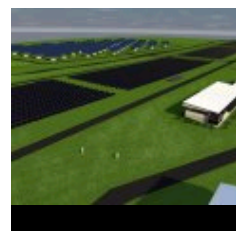
New

research to help predict teen suicide 8
August 2014



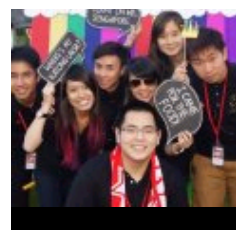
Award-winning author

releases crime thriller that keeps readers guessing 7
August 2014



Work starts at UQ Gatton on solar

research facility 6
August 2014



[More headlines](#)

[Home](#) › [Parents see sibling fighting as normal](#)

Brisbane St Lucia, QLD 4072

+61 7 3365 1111

[Other Campuses: UQ Ipswich,
UQ Gatton, UQ Herston](#)

[Maps and Directions](#)

© 2014 The University of Queensland

A MEMBER OF



 GROUP OF EIGHT

[Privacy & Terms of use](#) | [Feedback](#)

Authorised by: Director, Office of
Marketing and Communications
ABN: 63 942 912 684
CRICOS Provider No: 00025B

QUICK LINKS

- [For Media](#)
- [Emergency Contact](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

NEED HELP?

EMERGENCY

[3365 3333](#)

EXPLORE

- [Giving to UQ](#)
- [Faculties & Divisions](#)
- [UQ Jobs](#)
- [UQ Contacts](#)
- [Services & Facilities](#)
- [Login](#)