

Rowena Barrett has recently returned to Australia from the UK where she was Professor of HRM and Small Business at De Montfort University, Leicester. While at the Leicester Business School, Rowena also led the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Research Group, reflecting her research interests in small firms. Her time in Leicester was well spent learning that the issues facing small firms are largely similar in developed countries with some variations for context. Prior to joining De Montfort University, Rowena spent many years at Monash University, initially at the Clayton campus and then at the Gippsland campus (2001-2006). At Monash she established the Family and Small Business Research Unit, which focussed on working with small business owners, organisations, and policy makers to address issues of concern.

With a background in Industrial Relations, Rowena's research interests have generally focussed on understanding how people are managed in smaller firms, particularly given that many small firms operate without formalised management systems. She is looking forward to working with others with similar interests and undertaking research around these issues in Western Australia.

As the new Head of the School of Management, Rowena knows she's got a great team of people to work with and she's looking forward to embracing the opportunities that ECU offers.