Five UQ researchers awarded grants

By RESHNI RATNAM

FIVE University of Queensland researchers were awarded grants totalling more than $800,000 at the annual UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards held recently.

Westside winners included Lianzhou Wang and Shizhang Qiao, of Kenmore, Dustin Marshall and Liz Coulson, of St Lucia, and Felicity Baker, of Taringa. Eleven researchers were honoured for their work, which covered projects as diverse as helping older couples deal with dementia through music to using sunlight to purify water.

In addition, three UQ academics were honoured with Awards for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision, each worth $10,000.

Dr Baker received a $70,000 UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award to investigate how music therapy might help dementia sufferers and their partners by the sharing of memories associated with certain songs.

“One of the biggest problems of couples living together where one person has dementia is that there’s a breakdown in the relationship as one partner begins to lose their ability to communicate,” Dr Baker said.

“The project will involve having a music therapist go into the home and show the spouse how they can use music as a way of creating meaningful experiences with their partner.”