

## Update for ACT and Victorian Partners: December 2015

Welcome to the Summer edition of the *kContact Newsletter*, which provides an update on the progress of the kContact research study, in both the ACT and Victoria.

Since we last wrote to you we have achieved significant milestones with the project, including the completion of intervention training in the ACT and Victoria.

### Recruitment Update

The recruitment process resulted in the inclusion of 63 children in the ACT and 60 children in Victoria, in the kContact study.

All baseline interviews have now been completed in the ACT and Victoria – interview figures below. Unfortunately, several children became ineligible after the interviews took place.

Interviewee	ACT	VIC
	Number completed	Number completed
<b>Parents</b>	26	43
<b>Carers</b>	46	50
<b>Workers</b>	60	63

### Children's Study Update

- The children's study has completed the first round interviews, speaking with 22 children and young people aged eight for 14.
- Children and young people shared a variety of experiences in the first round of interviews. While some talked in generally positive terms about their visits, many identified significant barriers that prevented them from consistently engaging and connecting with their families to the extent that they wished to.
- Planning is underway for the follow up interviews which will focus on how children and young people make sense of their visits and what impact they see their visits having on their lives. Pilots for the second interview are planned for December, with the majority of interviews to take place in January 2016.

## Progress over the last few months

- The intervention training has been completed in the ACT and in Victoria with the caseworkers at all partner agency sites allocated to the intervention. These partner agency sites include:
  - Barnardos;
  - Berry St Shepparton and Eaglemont;
  - CAFS Ballarat;
  - Ozchild Dandenong Foster care;
  - Wesley Dandenong; and,
  - Salvation Army Westcare.
- Following the training, the intervention has commenced at all of the intervention sites.
- The protocol paper which provides in depth detail about the methodology of the study has been published and is available for free at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/15/1134/>.
- Data entry of the first baseline interviews has commenced.
- The literature review completed for stage one is on the kContact study website and is available free at: <http://www.acu.edu.au/658607>.

## What we hope to achieve over the next few months...

Most importantly, we will be providing ongoing support and coaching for staff at the intervention sites by collecting and reviewing the intervention checklists. We will also be providing the intervention sites with feedback about the intervention checklists and following up with managers about the observation / recording of intervention stages to monitor the fidelity of the trial and support the practice change involved.

Please contact Larissa Rossen, the Intervention Coordinator, on 0411 019 837 or via email [ICPS.KContact@acu.edu.au](mailto:ICPS.KContact@acu.edu.au) to discuss any questions or concerns about the intervention.

We will complete data entry of baseline interview data by the end of 2015. The follow up interviews with children, parents, carers and staff will commence in early 2016. Finally, we will collect the latest policies relating to contact (local to teams as well as organisation wide) from all of our partner agencies.

## Save the Date

For members of the Stakeholder Advisory Groups we have scheduled our next meetings.

**Dates proposed:      Victoria: Tuesday 16 February 2016, 1.30-3.00pm**

**ACT: Tuesday 23 February 2016, 11am – 12.30pm**

## Intervention update

We have started to receive intervention checklists. Thank you to those of you who have submitted them so far. Currently we have received checklists for about 15 children in various stages across the ACT and Victoria. Adherence to the kContact intervention framework is looking relatively good which is exciting. We also hope that benefits for the children concerned will soon emerge!

An online survey to workers was distributed to those who attended the training. We have not received many responses as yet. If you have not completed the survey we would really appreciate your feedback. Please check your junk mail folder in case it has been sent there if you have not received it. It should not take longer than 10 minutes to complete.

Please remember Larissa Rossen, the Intervention Coordinator, can be contacted on 0411 019 837 or via email [ICPS.KContact@acu.edu.au](mailto:ICPS.KContact@acu.edu.au) to discuss any questions or concerns about the intervention.

## Project Team

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