



Update for ACT and Victorian Partners: July 2016

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

Since we last wrote to you we have achieved significant milestones with the project, including the commencement of baseline data analysis and follow-up interviews.

Intervention News

We are currently conducting follow-up interviews. However, it is important that the intervention continues until we have done our interview with you, so any beneficial effects of the intervention for families are observed. This ensures that the interview captures the actual intervention practice.

If you have any questions or concerns about the intervention or would like to give us examples of the intervention you would like to share in our next newsletter please email us at ICPS.KContact@acu.edu.au

Follow-Up Interview Update as at 1 July 2016

Interviewee	ACT	VIC
	Number completed	Number completed
Parents	19	20
Carers	42	32
Workers	48	3

Save the Date...

The kContact research team invites you to a Webinar on **Thursday 21 July, 1.30 – 3.00pm in Melbourne.**

This will be an opportunity to discuss the practice enhancement intervention (details for people from comparison sites), and the experiences of those who trialled it, as well as to share preliminary findings from the research thus far.

While this email has been sent to everyone who has been involved with kContact up until now, please circulate it within your organisation to all who might be interested.

- If you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Jeremy Cohen (cohenj2@student.unimelb.edu.au or 9035 4298).

Children's Study Update

- The children's study is exploring how children in OOHC experience and make sense of contact with their birth parents. Twenty-two children and young people aged nine to fourteen participated in first round interviews focusing on their experiences of contact. Eighteen of these children then chose to participate in a follow-up interview, which looked at any changes in contact, as well as exploring perceptions of family and the impact children see their contact visits having on their lives both now and into the future. Data analysis is well underway and a final children's reference group is planned for later this year to involve participants in the process of shaping the key findings. Particular findings from the family mapping activity will be presented at the ACWA conference in August and we expect to be in a position to share detailed findings from the entire children's study around the beginning of next year. Our thanks go to the project partners and carers for their ongoing support and especially to the children and young people whose willingness to share their experiences and insights have made this project possible.

Progress over the last few months

- We have complete baseline data from parents, carers and workers for 53 children. Baseline data continues to be analysed.
- Follow-up interviews have commenced and participation of carers and parents who took part in baseline interviews has been high. These interviews should be completed by the end of August.
- Follow-up interviews will be conducted with managers of the agencies to obtain perspectives on the intervention and how it could have been implemented differently.
- An article based on the review of contact interventions we did in 2014 has been accepted by *Child and Family Social Work*, and is now available online <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cfs.12301/full>

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

- We are commencing and completing the follow-up interviews with children, parents, carers and staff.
- We plan to complete baseline data analysis and continue drafting articles reporting the baseline results.

Reporting our study findings...

- The Webinar on Thursday 21 July, 1.30 – 3.00pm in Melbourne will report on baseline data analysed to date.
- Final workshops will be held in the ACT and Victoria early in 2017 to report on study findings and provide an opportunity for discussing their implications.

Publications to date...

Bullen, T., Taplin, S., McArthur, M., Humphreys, C. Kertesz, M. (2016). Interventions to improve supervised contact visits between children in out of home care and their parents: A systematic review. *Child and Family Social Work*.

Bullen, T., Taplin, S., Kertesz, M., Humphreys, C., & McArthur, M. (2015). *Literature review on supervised contact between children in out-of-home care and their parents*. Canberra: Institute of Child Protection Studies, ACU.

Taplin, S., Bullen, T., McArthur, M., Humphreys, C., Kertesz, M., & Dobbins, T. (2015). kContact, an enhanced intervention for contact between children in out-of-home care and their parents: protocol for a cluster randomised controlled trial. *BMC Public Health*, 15, 1134.

Project Team

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