



Update for ACT and Victorian Partners: June 2015

Welcome to the winter edition of the *kContact Newsletter* which aims to provide 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, namely the commencement of baseline interviewing in both the ACT and in Victoria.

We also appointed an Intervention Coordinator, Annie Bleeker, who has completed the Intervention Manual and will be conducting the intervention training in both the ACT and Victoria. Annie works part time and is an experienced trainer and facilitator in the alcohol and other drug (AOD) and allied health sector.

Most of the staff baseline interviews have been completed in the ACT in both the intervention and control sites. Approximately half of the carer interviews have been completed in the ACT. However, despite the best efforts of the research team, recruitment has been slower with parents which has led us to delay the intervention training to late August/September.

Interviewing in the Victorian sites commenced in late May and is progressing as complexities in the sample selection are sorted out. Early signs show that researchers face the same challenges in recruiting parents and carers as in the ACT. In addition, for children on custody orders, parents must give permission before carers and workers can be interviewed. It is anticipated that both the ACT and Victoria will complete baseline interviews by the end of September.

We would like to encourage caseworkers who are asking parents to be involved to ask parents what would assist them to participate in the study. Please promote the study as much as you can to both parents and carers to give everyone the opportunity to share their views and be involved.

Progress

- A paper on the intervention methodology was presented by Tracey Bullen at the *Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect* held in Auckland in March 2015 (ACCAN 2015).
- The application for stage two of the study was registered with the University of Melbourne Human Research Ethics Committee HREC, and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services approved the study in March.
- The literature review completed for stage one is now on the study website and is freely available.
http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/faculties_institutes_and_centres/centres/institute_of_child_protection_studies/kcontact_project/kcontact_publications_and_presentations
- The intervention manual has been completed and is currently in the design and printing stage.

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

- Complete baseline interviews in the ACT and Victoria by September
- Development of curriculum for half day intervention training
- Complete intervention training in ACT and Victorian sites by September/October

Save the date

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

Dates proposed: Victoria: (TBC) 9.30am -11am

ACT: Tuesday 18 August 11am – 12.30pm

Project Team

Victoria	ACT
<p>Chief Investigator</p> <p>Professor Cathy Humphreys Alfred Felton Chair of Child and Family Social Work Department of Social Work University of Melbourne Parkville. Victoria 3010 Ph: 03 8344 9427 cathy.humphreys@unimelb.edu.au</p> <p>Project Staff</p> <p>Dr Margaret Kertesz Research Fellow Department of Social Work University of Melbourne Ph: 03 9035 8508 mkertesz@unimelb.edu.au</p> <p>Partner Investigators <i>Non-government organisations</i> Baptcare Berry Street CAFS Ballarat Centre for Excellence in Child & Family Welfare Mackillop Family Services OzChild Salvation Army Westcare Wesley Mission Victoria</p>	<p>Chief Investigators</p> <p>Professor Morag McArthur Director, ICPS (on study leave) Australian Catholic University Watson ACT 2601 Ph: 02 6209 1225 morag.mcarthur@acu.edu.au</p> <p>Associate Professor Stephanie Taplin Associate Director, ICPS (Acting Director) Ph: 02 6209 1319 stephanie.taplin@acu.edu.au</p> <p>Project Staff</p> <p>Dr Tracey Bullen Project Manager, ICPS Ph: 02 6209 1331 tracey.bullen@acu.edu.au</p> <p>Rhys Thorpe PhD Candidate, ICPS rhys.thorpe@acu.edu.au</p> <p>Annie Bleeker Intervention Coordinator Ph: 0412 294131 annie.bleeker@acu.edu.au</p> <p>Partner Investigators <i>Government organisations</i> ACT Community Services Directorate</p> <p><i>Non-government organisations</i> Marymead Child and Family Centre, Barnardos</p>