

Update for ACT and Victorian Partners: September 2015

Welcome to the Spring 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 commencement of intervention training in the ACT.

The baseline interviews with parents, carers and workers are well underway, as can be seen below, and we hope to reach our recruitment targets over the next few months.

Recruitment update

Interviewee	ACT	VIC
	Number completed	Number completed
Parents	23	27
Carers	41	36
Workers	58	5 *

* The majority of workers are yet to be contacted about interviews in Victoria.

We would like to encourage caseworkers who are asking parents and carers to be involved to ask them what would assist them to participate in the study. If you have any other eligible children to include in our study lists before your training please let us know **ASAP** as we need to interview parents and carers before the training is delivered.

Children's Study Update

With the help of our agency partners, carers, and of course, the children and young people themselves, twenty-two interviews have now been completed by Rhys Thorpe for his doctoral study in the ACT. Participants have shared a wealth of insights and stories from their experiences.

Rhys is currently in the process of exploring these responses in order to better understand how children and young people experience and make sense of their contact visits. He will run another children's reference group later this year to review the current findings and help plan the second interview. Follow-up interviews will be starting early in 2016. Our sincere thanks go to the children and young people who have been part of this project so far and everyone who's supported them to do so.

Progress over the last few months

- The intervention training commenced in the ACT in August.
- Approval to interview kinship care families in the ACT attending supervised contact visits has been obtained in order to extend our pool of eligible participants.
- Data entry of the first baseline interviews has commenced.
- The literature review completed for stage one is now on the study website and is freely available at: <http://www.acu.edu.au/658607>.
- The intervention manual has been completed and has been printed for the intervention sites.

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

- Researchers to complete baseline interviews in the ACT and Victoria and continue with data entry.
- Intervention Coordinator to complete intervention training in ACT and Victorian sites by September/October and commence supporting caseworkers in using the intervention model and resources.
- Workers in the intervention sites to be using the intervention.

Save the Date

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

Dates proposed: Victoria: Tuesday 17 November 2015, 1.30-3.00pm

ACT: Tuesday 24 November 2015, 11am – 12.30pm

Meet the newest member of the team



Larissa Rossen has recently commenced as the kContact Intervention Coordinator at ACU, and will be replacing Annie Bleeker. She will provide intervention training and support for the intervention across the ACT and Victoria.

Larissa previously worked for the NSW Community Services as a Child Protection Caseworker before working on a Domestic Violence project with Sutherland Shire Family Services and NSW Police. Larissa then spent one year living in Kathmandu, Nepal, as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD) where she worked as a Child Psychology and Protection Officer for a local NGO called Child Workers (CWIN). Larissa is currently finishing her PhD at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW, looking at the impact of parental substance use and mental health on parent-child bonding and emotional availability in the first year of life. She can be contacted on 0411 019 837 or via email ICPS.KContact@acu.edu.au to discuss any questions or concerns about the intervention.

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> Bapcare 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>Larissa Rossen Intervention Coordinator Ph: 0411 019 837 ICPS.KContact@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>

