

PACTS Newsletter

September 2014



PACTS: An innovative Primary care program Advancing Competency To Support family violence survivors

'I want to thank you for encouraging us to do the PACTS program. I did it during my mid semester break, and found it very interesting. It led me to going to the local police station to meet with the 2 domestic violence social workers who work there. Now I am working on an assignment ... about the links between domestic violence and health. None of which would have happened without the PACTS program. So, thank you.'

Student feedback

Exciting Feedback

In April 2014 we started piloting the PACTS online learning package with Monash University students from medicine, paramedics and social work – the PACTS package is an extensive online teaching package (comprising six modules) designed to help pre-vocational primary healthcare students develop skills and knowledge to assist them in responding to people who have experienced family violence. Student feedback has been a real highlight of the PACTS project since our last (May) newsletter. The response featured above, for example, has encouraged the team, and reinforced the important role PACTS can play in educating and inspiring future healthcare professionals in the important and challenging area of family violence. Other student comments have also been invaluable, guiding the PACTS research team as they further develop and improve the online package.

In Semester Two, piloting of the PACTS package expanded and we now have Monash University students from nursing and midwifery, and occupational therapy, participating.

Thank you

A big thank you to students and others who provided us with valuable feedback on the PACTS project and online learning package. Comments are greatly appreciated so please keep your thoughts and suggestions coming.

Highlights

We have been working with our PACTS partner universities (The Australian National University, The University of Melbourne and The University of Newcastle) to prepare for piloting of the PACTS package amongst medical students at these institutions during the second half of Semester Two.

In July our Project Lead (Jan Coles) had the opportunity to demonstrate the PACTS package at the 19th WONCA Europe Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal (WONCA: World Organisation of Family Doctors). This was an exciting time and a terrific chance to raise awareness of the PACTS project – we should be excited by the international interest in the learning modules, and the videos which support them.



Above: Jan Coles presenting at the WONCA Europe Conference

Recently Jan met with staff from the Victorian Women’s Trust (The Trust), including the Executive Director Mary Crooks. The Trust funded the development and production of nineteen short videos which are embedded into the PACTS online learning package. Jan was able to express the PACTS team’s gratitude to The Trust, and showcase the videos which address survivor stories (simulated / acted), professional champion’s accounts, and best practice professional encounters.



Above: Image from acted ‘Survivor Story’ video

Funding

1. The Australian Federal Government’s Office for Learning and Teaching, the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science and Tertiary Education, Innovation and Development Grant.
2. A Victorian Women’s Trust Special Grant supported the development of video resources for this project.

DGP / PACTS Website

The Monash University Department of General Practice (DGP) / PACTS website went live in July. Please visit this site and learn more about the PACTS Project.

DGP / PACTS Website: <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/general-practice/pacts/>

Congratulations

In July 2014, Jan was the ‘Featured Doctor’ in the WONCA (World Family Doctors) global family doctor bulletin – the article highlighted her work in the area of family violence. Jan is only the second Australian general practitioner to be honoured in this way.

<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/member/WoncaPeople/ColesAProfJan.aspx>

Jan’s work and achievements were also recognised in an article published in ‘Monash Memo’.

<http://www.monash.edu/news/show/helping-gps-respond-to-family-violence>

Input invited

As always, the PACTS project team asks for your support in the dissemination of the developed learning package. If you have any ideas about this, or know of opportunities for improving project dissemination, please contact the Project Coordinator, Heather McKay by telephone (03) 9905 0546, or email: heather.mckay@monash.edu).

From Jan Coles and the PACTS team

Note: Support for this project has been provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching. The views in this project do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching

Want to be involved?

- ✓ Pass on the newsletter to your colleagues, especially those involved in family violence teaching;
- ✓ Give us feedback on module content;
- ✓ Let us know your ideas for sharing the resource with colleagues.