

PACTS Newsletter

January 2014



PACTS: An innovative primary care program Advancing competency To Support family violence survivors

The PACTS Project

PACTS is a project which aims to improve learning and teaching on family violence in pre-vocational Australian primary health care courses in order to better equip graduates with the skills to intervene, and consequently improve patient/client access to services. The specific goals of PACTS are to:

- develop an open access online learning package teaching students to effectively respond to victims/survivors of family violence;
- pilot the online learning package at four Australian universities;
- effect systemic change on a national level by disseminating the developed open access online learning package, and promoting its use, development and adaptation by teachers, students, and relevant community organisations.

The project is being conducted at the Department of General Practice, Monash University, in collaboration with three partner universities: The Australian National University, The University of Melbourne and The University of Newcastle. The project team, led by Associate Professor Jan Coles, includes representatives from the disciplines of medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, paramedics and social work, as well as the three partner universities.

PACTS Outcomes

PACTS will develop a six hour online learning package for prevocational primary health care students which will be piloted at four universities before becoming available as an open access online learning and teaching resource.

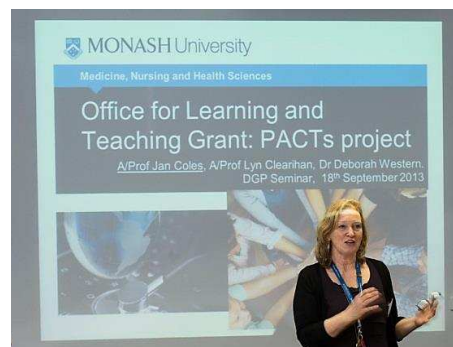
Highlights

After some initial delays, work on the PACTS project has been progressing well. Here are some of the highlights from 2013.

An expert panel has been established. This group advises on discipline specific content, and provides educational and community input and advice on dissemination strategies.

In July Dr Heather McKay commenced as the PACTS Project Coordinator; Heather's background is in women's health research and she has project coordination experience. Ms Crystal Bruton also joined the team and has written the course content for the online learning package; Crystal has experience in research and policy concerning violence against women.

On 18 September Jan presented an overview of the PACTS project as part of the seminar series held at the Department of General Practice, Monash University. This event was followed by a PACTS research team and expert panel meeting where representatives from most of the PACTS disciplines and all the partner universities attended. It proved a wonderful opportunity for everyone to meet 'in person' and review the project plan, proposed timeline, and evaluation strategy.



Above: Department of General Practice presentation given by Jan Coles

We finished writing the course material for the PACTS learning package – the package will comprise six modules, each taking one hour to complete.

In December we worked with an external production company and Monash University’s multimedia team to film eighteen short videos which will be used in the learning package. Discipline representatives and employed actors feature in these videos which address simulated survivor experiences, professional champions accounts and best practice professional encounters. These videos are nearly complete and the PACTS team would like to say thank you to all who participated.

- get feedback from teachers and students by piloting the learning package – first at Monash University than at our partner universities;
- begin planning for “where to next”. The team would value your ideas.

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.

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.

Contact: Heather McKay, PACTS Project Coordinator, telephone (03) 9905 0546, or email heather.mckay@monash.edu

Input invited

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

Upcoming work

As 2014 commences, here are some of the tasks the PACTS team will be involved with during the first half of the year:

- apply for ethics approval to pilot the learning package at our partner universities;
- engage with students and content experts to create an engaging learning platform;
- transfer course materials and videos into a format suitable for online learning and teaching;
- develop an access portal for the PACTS online learning and teaching module;



Above: Research team and expert panel meeting

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