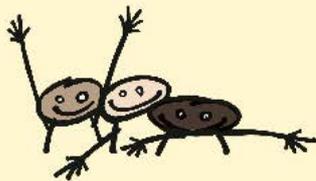


FACQ



FAMILY ACTION CENTRE QUARTERLY



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE

MARCH 2016



The Centre remains vibrant & committed to innovation across each of its areas of operation (research, teaching & outreach). In this, the Centre's 30th Anniversary year, we will be producing a one page FACQ sheet in March, June, Sept & December!

WELCOME!

2016 is off to a good start. We are taking stock of our achievements, strengths, priorities and strategic directions. The Centre's strategic plan is being developed to closely align with the University's New Futures Plan 2016-2025 and our Faculty's corporate plans. Our strategic directions will ensure that we strongly contribute to our School, Faculty and University, while maintaining and strengthening the Centre's flagship community outreach programs.

Last year ended on many positive notes, not the least of which was the news of the promotion of Dr Richard Fletcher to the rank of Associate Professor. This is wonderful recognition of Richard's achievements throughout his time working at The Family Action Centre.

COLLABORATIONS

Richard Fletcher and Ms Lyn Stoker are collaborating to develop a new short course. A preview workshop is to be delivered at the University's new Sydney campus in April. It's called SmallSteps. The workshop will focus on activities and strategies to safely discuss fathers' behaviours when interacting with families where there may be family violence.

Recent discussions, including with the NSW Government have identified opportunities for the Centre to progress work in the area of collective impact approaches to building community capability to support and strengthen families. Collaborations with colleagues in our Faculty and the Faculty of Arts and Education would present exciting opportunities to build on the ground-breaking family and community work for which the Centre is so well known.

OUT & ABOUT

Prof. Hayes has recently been to Singapore to assist the Ministry of Social and Family Development in framing Singapore's national family research agenda. There were valuable sets of meetings at Nanyang Technological University and at the UON Singapore Campus with UON Alumni Award winner, the outstanding and inspirational Dr. William Tan.

OUTREACH

FAC program facilitators, Ms Kerri Bird and Ms Sally Dooner are delivering a parenting program at a correctional centre in Cessnock, for female offenders with mental health, alcohol & other drug use issues. Many residents and staff have acknowledged the benefit of the program.

RESEARCH

Research is becoming an increasingly prominent focus for the Centre. We have two new part time Research Assistants working within our research area: *Strong Families-Capable Communities*. We are also accepting applications to the Family Action Centre Research Higher Degree (Research Masters or PhD) program **AND we now have scholarships on offer to two successful candidates!**

TEACHING

We are well advanced in reviewing our teaching programs, led by Dr Jennifer St George, our Program Convenor. Jennifer actively contributes to the School of Health Sciences' Teaching and Learning Committee. We are pursuing strategies to continue the steady increase in Family Studies via information webinars that have resulted in a flow of enrolments into the Masters and Graduate Certificate programs.

OUTREACH

Our Special Needs Camps are giving students an invaluable opportunity to volunteer with families caring for children with rare health conditions during a residential retreat. There is a 3-hour interactive training session, delivered by health professionals, which covers a range of theoretical and practical topics, from child protection, to working within multidisciplinary teams and volunteer self-care.

OPPORTUNITIES

International opportunities with Indonesia are providing clear potential for growth achievable in the short- to medium-term. In October 2016, Drs Stuart and Hartman will be hosting a week-long visit by a delegation of around 30 academics from State Islamic Universities, accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA).

Other international opportunities, especially in research should flow from a forthcoming visit to the University of Nebraska -Lincoln (UNL) in late April 2016 by Dr Hartman and Professor Hayes. UNL Professor Rich Bischoff, will then visit FAC as a Visiting Research Fellow in mid-May 2016. This visit will progress collaborative grant opportunities and joint publications.

OPERATIONS

New Professors Talk by Alan Hayes AM
Wed 30th March, Newcastle Museum 6:30 pm
Professor Hayes will discuss the pressing need for innovative services to address complex social problems and explore the future of Australian families.